

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND INFLUENZA VACCINATION COVERAGE OF MEDICAL STUDENTS IN WARSAW, STRASBOURG, AND TEHERAN

Rafal Machowicz¹, Joanna Ciechanska², Nastaran Mahboobi³, Emilia Wnekowicz⁴,
Katarzyna Zycinska¹ and Tadeusz M Zielonka¹

¹Department of Family Medicine, Warsaw Medical University,
Warsaw, Poland; beetleman@go2.pl;

²Faculty of Medicine-Student, Warsaw Medical University, Warsaw, Poland;

³Tehran Hepatitis Center, Tehran, Iran;

⁴Jagiellonian University Medical College-Student, Cracow, Poland

Background: Influenza vaccinations are recommended for health professionals by WHO and CDC. Medicine students are very important group not only as future physicians but also because of frequent contact with patients during their education. Additionally this group is a very good target of educational campaigns as they are still in their training period and are open to changing their habits. In France students working in hospital can be vaccinated free of charge. In Poland and Iran they have to pay and organize vaccination on their own.

Aim: Aim of the study was comparison of knowledge, attitudes and influenza vaccination coverage of medicine students in three different countries: Poland, France and Iran.

Material and methods: 1044 self-administered, anonymous questionnaires were given to medicine students of Medical University of Warsaw (n=507), University of Strasbourg-Faculty of Medicine (n=367) and Teheran University of Medical Sciences (n=170).

Results: Based on the number of seasons when students were vaccinated they were divided into three groups: those who have been frequently vaccinated (at least 4 times or successively in last 3 years), others who have been vaccinated in different pattern and a group of students who have never been vaccinated. Results for Warsaw (12%, 23% and 65% in three groups respectively) and Strasbourg (15%, 25% and 60%) are very similar and differ from lower vaccination rates in Teheran (1%, 13% and 86%). Percentage of students knowing that they belong to the group which has indications for being vaccinated is 49% in Warsaw, 78% in Strasbourg and 40% in Teheran. 75% of students in Teheran and 65% in Warsaw would like to be vaccinated if it was free of charge.

Conclusions: Vaccination coverage of medical students is far below satisfactory in all three places, especially in Teheran very few medicine students are frequently immunized against the influenza. Intensification of educational efforts seems to be crucial. Similar vaccination rates in Warsaw and Strasbourg show that providing access to free of charge vaccination, although is very important, cannot solve the problem alone.