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Survey to understand physicians' knowledge, attitude & practice patterns to vaccinate COPD patients in India (PREVENT Survey)

Vaccination, Exacerbation, COPD

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Background: Vaccinations play a critical role in reducing severity of infections and mortality in COPD patients; however, they are largely underutilized.

Objectives: To gain insights into the knowledge, attitude and practice patterns of clinicians towards vaccination of COPD patients in India & understand challenges encountered for the same.

Methods: This nationwide self-reported questionnaire-based survey was conducted digitally during 4 respiratory conferences held across India from January-September 2024. Study protocol was explained to the participating clinicians and the survey link was provided after obtaining digital data sharing consent. All completed forms were digitally submitted and analyzed.

Results: 81 clinicians from 17 states participated in this survey; 61.73% were pulmonologists. Only 46.15% clinicians reported advising vaccination for all COPD patients. Affordability (80.95%) and patient unwillingness (73.81%) were cited as the most common barriers. 72.15% clinicians reported recommending vaccination for all COPD patient profiles, irrespective of exacerbation frequency, pneumonia events and disease severity. All clinicians recommended both influenza and pneumococcal vaccines in COPD patients with 77.63% preferring quadrivalent influenza vaccine and 89.74% preferring PCV13 followed by PPSV23. Pertussis and Herpes zoster were recommended by 33.33% and 35.90% clinicians, respectively. 45.57% clinicians expressed willingness to use RSV vaccine in all COPD patients, if made available,

Conclusion: Vaccinations are significantly underutilized in Indian COPD patients. Affordability and patient unwillingness are the most common barriers.