

PD230 The VALUE Project: Multistakeholder Assessment For A Value-Based Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Lower Respiratory Tract Diseases

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Introduction: Lower respiratory tract diseases (LRTDs) pose a public health threat, particularly among vulnerable populations. Vaccination is crucial for disease control, promoting healthy aging, and reducing mortality. However, current immunization programs for adult and the elderly are suboptimal. This project engaged healthcare professionals and citizens to develop guidelines for immunization of adults and the elderly in Italy, with a specific focus on the currently available respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination.

Methods: The project will include the following three phases: (i) Exploratory phase: a scoping review—involving a search of MEDLINE and institutional websites—to investigate current vaccinations offered to adults and the elderly in Italy for vaccine preventable LRTDs; (ii) Assessment phase: a Delphi process to identify strengths and weaknesses in the current vaccinations offered to adults and the elderly and to evaluate the latest regional and national plans for immunizing the elderly against RSV; and (iii) Policy phase: a consultation with experts to formulate recommendations for the nationwide implementation of vaccination strategies for LRTDs among adults and the elderly, paying particular attention to RSV prevention.

Results: By analyzing current vaccinations offered in Italy, the ongoing project released new evidence and data on vaccine preventable LRTDs to enhance existing vaccination policies and strategies. This aligned a value-based decision-making process with technological innovations in vaccination. Moreover, the involvement of different stakeholders was crucial for identifying health needs and recognizing potential barriers that may hinder adequate vaccination coverage among adult and elderly populations, thus defining priority areas.

Conclusions: Vaccination of adult and elderly populations must be a key component of strategies aimed at promoting the maintenance of good health in the long term. The disease burden of LRTDs and RSV infections is significant and likely underestimated among the elderly. Therefore, adequate prevention strategies are crucial to reducing the national and global burden of these respiratory diseases.

PD231 A New Way Of Identifying And Selecting Health Technology Assessment Topics: Using Social Media And Citizen Involvement

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Introduction: As unfiltered health information overflows through social networking services, people's health rights are being violated and unnecessary medical expenses are increasing. Citizens and patients participating in the group initiative Public Involvement in the National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaborating Agency (NECA), the sole health technology assessment (HTA) agency in South Korea, began monitoring information on health technology in social media from 2021 as a new way to identify HTA topics.

Methods: Citizens and patients in Public Involvement in NECA were provided with search keywords related to "common diseases on general public" and "diseases with high public interest". They monitored social media platforms for one month and collected information about health technologies, such as medicines and treatments without scientific evidence on their safety and effectiveness. The target information included subjective information on health technologies based on personal experience; information with unclear sources; information that might cause excessive anxiety and fear; and information with a high risk of side effects. Information was collected from the internet and a checklist was given to the participants to evaluate the suitability of the information.

Results: In the topic selection process, NECA, and the Korean Society of Science Journalists (KSIA) evaluated the priority of HTA topics developed from the collected information. HTA topics were evaluated using five criteria, including the possible harm the information might cause throughout society. As a result, the safety and effectiveness of saw palmetto in patients with prostatic hyperplasia and high-dose intravenous vitamin C in patients with cancer were selected. NECA conducted health technology reassessments on these topics and was able to successfully disseminate the reassessment results in collaboration with the KSIA.

Conclusions: Participation in the HTA process using social media lowered the barriers that laypersons experience with HTA and increased the possibility of bringing HTA topics closer to citizens' lives. However, as there were difficulties in collecting meaningful information for developing a HTA topic, providing systematic training on health information monitoring remains a challenge.