

D22

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Improving Vaccination Rates for Lupus and Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients on Immunomodulating Treatments.

The Immunosuppressive medications used to treat Lupus (SLE) and Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) put patients at higher risk of contracting common vaccine-preventable infections. Our rheumatology clinic at KCHC investigated the number of SLE and RA patients on immunomodulating therapies sufficiently vaccinated. We found deficit in the number of patient's adequately vaccinated patients per American College of Rheumatology (ACR) guidelines. Therefore, our team created an intervention aimed at improving overall vaccination rates within our Kings County Rheumatology Clinic. Our team collected vaccination status on SLE and RA patients in the clinic for the Months November - December 2022. Data was specific to pneumonia and shingles vaccination. During this specified time frame, we were able to collect data for 91 SLE patient visits and 161 RA patient visits. We found only 22% of Lupus patients and 35% of Rheumatoid Arthritis patients were adequately vaccinated in both Shingles and Pneumonia vaccines. After finding this substantial deficit, we implemented an intervention aimed at increasing patient vaccination rates. This intervention involved a multi-pronged approach involving patient educational pamphlets, fellow educational session, and physical clinic reminders at desktops. These steps were implemented between March - April 2023. Updated patient vaccination rates were then collected again in May and June 2023 to see if the intervention was successful in increasing the overall vaccination rates. SLE patients vaccination rates increased from 22% pre-intervention to 41% post-intervention. RA patients vaccination rates increased from 35% pre intervention to 64% post-intervention. Limitations include unclear identification of which intervention aspect was most effective. We were unable to collect data on overall patient knowledge pre- and post-intervention. However, this project was a great starting point for further investigation of patient and practitioner vaccine engagement.