

Knowledge and Compliance Regarding Pneumococcal Vaccination among Sick Cell Disease Patients Attending Health Centers

Aalaa Fahad Fakhrawi* Duaa Abdali Hasan* Fatema Mohammed Khalil* Jenan A.Jalil Al Sanad* Samana Ali Jaafar* Tahera Hashim Baqer* Zahraa Jaafar Kadhemi* Zahraa Sayed Mustafa Alawi* Zainab Adel Alsetrawi* Fatima Habib**

Background: Sick Cell Disease (SCD) is a genetic disorder, which has a high prevalence in Bahrain (around 18,000 persons are affected). *Streptococcus pneumonia* is a major cause of serious bacterial infection in SCD. One of the measures taken to prevent pneumococcal infection is by the administration of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

Objective: To assess the knowledge of SCD patients attending the health centers regarding pneumococcal vaccination and to evaluate the compliance of SCD patients attending health centers in Bahrain toward pneumococcal vaccination.

Design: A Cross-Sectional Study.

Setting: Primary Health Centers, Bahrain.

Method: A total of 230 SCD patients participated in our study. An interview-administered questionnaire included personal characteristics and knowledge and compliance of SCD patients regarding pneumococcal vaccination. All data were analyzed using SPSS program.

Result: Hundred ninety-nine (86.5%) patients were unaware of the pneumococcal vaccination, and only 143 (62.2%) participants received the vaccine. Furthermore, 174 (75.7%) patients do not recall being informed about or recommended to receive the vaccine by their physicians.

Conclusion: It was found that the most common type of infection among the participants was respiratory infections, which emphasizes the need for the pneumococcal vaccine. However, the findings revealed that the knowledge and compliance of SCD patients regarding the pneumococcal vaccination were suboptimal.

* AGU Medical Student

** AGU Faculty