

PERCEPTION, KNOWLEDGE AND INFLUENZA VACCINE COVERAGE RATES AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN POLAND

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Introduction. Pregnancy and chronic diseases, including diabetes, predispose to severe course of influenza that's why influenza vaccination is strongly recommended to pregnant women and patients with chronic diseases. Although national and international recommendations, influenza vaccine coverage rates among pregnant women are low or unknown. The aim of the study was to learn the general knowledge, perception and influenza vaccine coverage rates among pregnant women in Poland. According to authors' knowledge this is the first study focused on this topic in our country.

Material and methods. The self fulfilled survey was distributed among pregnant women who were admitted to the out patient clinic due to newly recognized diabetes.

The survey consisted of 26 questions regarding demographical data, perception, knowledge and influenza vaccine coverage rate.

Results. The number of responders included into the study was 568. Influenza vaccine coverage rate among pregnant women with diabetes was 3%. Barriers for vaccination were: perception of the diseases as mild (88%), safety concerns (89%), vaccine effectiveness concerns (86%). The main drivers for vaccination were the will to protect a child (52%) and to avoid complications in pregnancy (52%). Responders found their knowledge about influenza as not satisfactory (77%), the main source of knowledge for them was internet (60%) and general practitioner (55%).

Conclusions. Influenza vaccine coverage rate among pregnant women is very low and must be improved. Both gynecologists and general practitioners should be actively involved in promotion of influenza vaccination among pregnant women.