

PROTECTION OF IMMUNOCOMPROMISED TRAVELERS BY VACCINATION

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Immunocompromised travelers are a growing population. Due to the advanced level of medicine, patients with chronic autoimmune diseases now for the first time have their diseases under control, are in better physical shape, and have greatly improved quality of life. As a result of this, these and other immunocompromised patients are now able to travel abroad when they want to. However, because of the immunocompromised condition, traveling comes with a higher risk for attracting (severe) infectious diseases. Adequate and tailor made travel vaccination therefore is warranted. However, most of the biologicals used for the treatment of the immunocompromised patient have an impact on the functioning of the immune system, and as a consequence vaccines may be less effective. First of all, an overview of the various available types of vaccines and their mode of action is given. Secondly, the current situation, with a focus on pneumococcal vaccines and prospects for the future of vaccination for (immunocompromised) travelers are being discussed.