

Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital, Chennai

Journal discussion (01/07/2025)

Title of journal: VACCINE CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADULT DERMATOLOGY PATIENTS ON IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE AND IMMUNOMODULATORY THERAPIES: A CLINICAL REVIEW

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Abstract: Adults with chronic inflammatory skin disease are at increased risk of vaccine-preventable illnesses and infections, likely because of the underlying disease itself and also their treatment with immunosuppressive and immunomodulatory medications. Despite the association between these agents and increased susceptibility to infection, vaccination rates in dermatology patients remain low. Although preventative care such as vaccinations is typically managed by primary care providers, dermatologists serve a critical role in spreading awareness of the specific risks of immunosuppressive and immunomodulatory agents and promoting understanding of individualized vaccine recommendations. In this review, we provide evidence-based information on vaccine recommendations for adult dermatology patients, specific to age and medication use.

Conclusion: As the use of immunosuppressive and immune-modulatory therapies continues to expand in dermatology practice, dermatologists play a critical role in educating patients on the risks of vaccine-preventable illness associated with medications. Beyond providing individualized vaccine counseling, some dermatologists may also be able to improve accessibility of vaccinations through offering vaccines in their offices, partnering with local pharmacies, or providing informational pamphlets detailing where to obtain the vaccine. Although vaccine guidance may not traditionally have fallen to dermatologists, it is an important step we can all take to improve patient care.

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