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Correspondence

Reply to the comment of Fayet et al. Obstacles and motivations to influenza and pneumococcal vaccination in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. A qualitative study



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We read with interest the correspondence of Fayet et al. [1] reporting the results of a qualitative study on obstacles and motivations to influenza and pneumococcal vaccination in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Like in our study, the authors reported low vaccination rates in this cohort of immunocompromised patients, particularly regarding influenza vaccine (33%). Analysis of the semi-directed nurse-led interviews pointed out that influenza was still considered as a benign disease by most patients. However, recent French surveillance data showed that during the 2017–2018 epidemics, the rate of hospitalization was particularly high, far above those of previous 2016–2017 and 2014–2015 influenza seasons [file:///C:/Users/3101424/Downloads/Bulletin_grippe_S16.bilan_preliminaire.pdf]. Models estimated excess mortality attributable to influenza at 13,000 deaths of all ages. Again, severe cases were mainly reported (80%) in patients with documented risk-factors. These recent epidemiological data stress out the significant burden of influenza in at-risk populations, and are of major importance to promote vaccination in these patients.

Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

Reference

- [1] Fayet F, Savel C, Rodere M, et al. Obstacles and motivations to influenza and pneumococcal vaccination in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. A qualitative study. *Joint Bone Spine* 2018, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jbspin.2018.06.006>.

Manal Assala^a
 Matthieu Groh^{a,b}
 Philippe Blanche^a
 Christine Vinter^a
 Patrice Cohen^a
 Véronique Le Guern^a
 Xavier Puéchal^a
 Luc Mouthon^{a,b}
 Claire Le Jeunne^{a,b}
 Odile Launay^{c,d}
 Solen Kernéis^{d,e,*}

^a Department of internal medicine, Assistance publique–Hôpitaux de Paris, hôpitaux universitaires Paris Centre-Cochin, 75014 Paris, France

^b Paris Descartes university, Sorbonne Paris Cité, 75006 Paris, France

^c CIC Cochin Pasteur, Assistance publique–Hôpitaux de Paris, hôpitaux universitaires Paris Centre-Cochin, 75014 Paris, France

^d Inserm CIC 1417, Paris Descartes university, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Paris, France

^e Antimicrobial Stewardship Team, Assistance publique–Hôpitaux de Paris, hôpitaux universitaires Paris Centre-Cochin, 75014 Paris, France

* Corresponding author at: Antimicrobial Stewardship Team, Assistance publique–Hôpitaux de Paris, hôpitaux universitaires Paris Centre-Cochin, Paris, France.
 E-mail address: solen.kerneis@aphp.fr (S. Kernéis)

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