

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

Advice on influenza vaccines for 2020/21

September 2019

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Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

Advice on influenza vaccines for 2020/21

Prepared by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation scientific secretariat

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JCVI advice on influenza vaccines for the 2020/2021 influenza season

The advice below represents the JCVI's scientific advice on the use of influenza vaccines in the UK for the 2020/21 influenza season in those aged 65 years and over.

Adults 65 years of age and over

For vaccination of those aged 65 years and over JCVI advises the use of the following vaccines:

- Adjuvanted trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (aTIV)
- High-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV-HD)

Considerations

The available evidence indicates additional benefit from the use of aTIV or TIV-HD in those aged 65 years and over, compared with standard dose egg-culture inactivated trivalent and quadrivalent vaccines (TIVe/QIVe). The additional benefit of TIV-HD and aTIV in the elderly is considered likely to outweigh the potential additional benefits of a second B strain in a quadrivalent egg-culture vaccine.

When considering a preference between TIV-HD and aTIV, the available data are few, somewhat inconsistent, are not available over multiple seasons, are at risk of bias, and are limited by the use of non-laboratory confirmed influenza endpoints. The level of uncertainty in the available evidence is considered too great to allow for a preferential recommendation between the vaccines.

The quadrivalent influenza cell-culture vaccine (QIVc) is suitable for use in this age group if aTIV or TIV-HD are not available. QIVc is considered preferable to standard egg-culture influenza vaccines (TIVe/QIVe), for reasons outlined below.

Further comparative data are required, preferably from the same country over multiple seasons and with laboratory confirmed influenza endpoints, to support consideration of the relative effectiveness of aTIV, TIV-HD and QIVc.

JCVI advice on influenza vaccines for the 2020/2021 influenza season (cont.)

The advice below represents the JCVI's scientific advice on the use of influenza vaccines in the UK for the 2020/21 influenza season in at-risk adults (including pregnant women) and children for whom there are contraindications for use of LAIV.

At-risk adults (including pregnant women) and children for whom there are contraindications for use of LAIV

For vaccination of those aged 9 to less than 65 years of age in an at-risk group JCVI advises the use of the following vaccines:

- Quadrivalent influenza cell-culture vaccine (QIVc)
- Quadrivalent influenza egg-culture vaccine (QIVe) (as an alternative to QIVc subject to the considerations below)

For vaccination of those aged less than 9 years of age in an at-risk group JCVI advises the use of the following vaccines:

- Quadrivalent influenza egg-culture vaccine (QIVe)¹

Considerations

Evidence from recent influenza seasons indicate a clear additional benefit in the use of quadrivalent influenza vaccines in those less than 65 years of age in an at-risk group, compared with trivalent influenza vaccines.

There is a potential advantage to using cell-culture influenza vaccines compared with egg-culture influenza vaccines, due to the possible impact of “egg-adaption” on the effectiveness of influenza vaccines, particularly against A(H3N2) strains. The evidence on additional benefit is reasonably consistent, but available for only very few seasons. The available limited evidence supports a slight preference for QIVc over QIVe, because any impact will likely be limited to seasons in which the influenza season is dominated by well-matched H3N2 strains.

Quadrivalent egg-culture inactivated vaccine (QIVe) can also be considered for use in this group. Both QIVc and QIVe are preferable to standard egg-culture inactivated trivalent vaccines (TIVe).

¹ QIVc is licensed for use in adults and children from nine years of age

Background

The considerations of JCVI with regards to use of these vaccines are published in the minutes of JCVI and the Influenza sub-committee

The advice of JCVI is based on discussions at JCVI and the Influenza sub-committee:

- adjuvanted influenza vaccines were discussed in the June and October 2017 JCVI meetings, and the September 2019 Influenza sub-committee;
- high dose influenza vaccines were discussed in the June 2018 JCVI meeting, the September 2018 Influenza sub-committee, and the September 2019 Influenza sub-committee;
- cell-culture vaccines were discussed in the September 2018 Influenza sub-committee meeting, the October 2018 JCVI meeting, and the September 2019 Influenza sub-committee.

The minutes JCVI and sub-committee meetings are available through the JCVI webpage at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation>

The minutes of the September 2019 Influenza sub-committee meeting and October 2019 JCVI meeting will become available through the JCVI webpage on or before 13 November 2019.

Glossary

aTIV - Adjuvanted egg-cultured trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine

LAIV - Live attenuated egg-cultured intranasal influenza vaccine

QIVc - Cell-cultured quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine

QIVe - Egg-cultured quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine

TIVe - Egg-cultured trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine

TIV-HD - High-dose egg-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine

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