



Vacunas

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Vaccinating is not just a matter for children: Adult immunization schedule[☆]

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: At present, in the autonomous community of Galicia there is no official vaccine schedule for the adult. In adults, in addition to age, certain concomitant conditions and diseases have been described which make vaccination a suitable strategy for immunopreventable diseases.

Methods: We have designed a vaccination schedule, in poster format with access to information through codes. A colour code, where the patient visualises the recommendations of the vaccines, and QR codes, giving access to a blog that provides information with scientific rigour and easy comprehension.

Results: We presented the calendar in the healthcare centre, a clinical session was done and the blog was spread on the network. A lack of information was observed in both groups, professionals and population, on vaccines and their recommendations in the adult. The publicity of the poster aroused the attention of the population, due to the belief that the vaccines in the adult were limited to the flu and the tetanus. There was a good acceptance of the project on the part of the health professionals, who valued it as a tool of assistance in the medical consultation.

Conclusion: Social networks are considered a new tool for scientific dissemination, but we must not forget traditional methods such as clinical sessions and posters, as their use is still limited to a certain part of the population. Vaccination coverage in adults is still very low, so we must familiarise and provide information to our population and health personnel about them.

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Vacunar no solo es cosa de niños: Calendario vacunal del adulto**R E S U M E N**

Palabras clave:

Calendario vacunal adulto

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Introducción: Actualmente, en la comunidad autónoma de Galicia no existe un calendario oficial de vacunas para el adulto. A medida que envejecemos aumenta la susceptibilidad a las infecciones, y en los adultos, además de la edad, se han descrito determinadas condiciones y enfermedades concomitantes que hacen de la vacunación una estrategia adecuada para las enfermedades inmunoprevenibles.

Métodos: Hemos diseñado un calendario vacunal, en formato póster con acceso a la información mediante códigos. Un código de colores, donde el paciente visualiza las recomendaciones de las vacunas, y códigos QR, dando acceso a un blog que aporta información de rigor científico y de fácil comprensión.

Resultados: Expusimos el calendario en el centro de salud, se realizó una sección clínica y se difundió el blog en la red. Se observó falta de información en ambos grupos, profesionales y población, sobre las vacunas y sus recomendaciones en el adulto. La divulgación del póster despertó la atención de la población, debido a la creencia de que las vacunas en el adulto estaban limitadas a la gripe y el tétanos. Hubo una buena aceptación del proyecto por parte de los profesionales sanitarios, que lo valoraron como una herramienta de ayuda en la consulta.

Conclusión: Las redes sociales son consideradas una nueva herramienta de divulgación científica, pero no debemos olvidar los métodos tradicionales, ya que su uso está aún limitado a determinada parte de la población. La cobertura vacunal en los adultos aún es muy baja, por eso, debemos familiarizar y facilitar información a nuestra población y personal sanitario sobre ellas.

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Introduction

Vaccines are, among other things, a top means of preventing infectious and contagious diseases, but, in spite of this, vaccine coverage among adults is currently very low.¹

This low coverage can be explained by the lack and/or scarcity of information on vaccination in adults among the population and healthcare professionals, the belief that vaccinations are for children, that vaccines cause diseases, low involvement of healthcare professionals and the lack of an official schedule for systematic vaccination in adults, which involves healthcare professionals and institutions.²⁻⁴

The incorporation of new technologies to inform and educate citizens has offered us a chance to modernise the public health system,⁵ but we must not forget older methods if we want to reach everyone, as social media use varies depending on age and cultural level.^{6,7}

The priority in this study is to increase vaccine coverage in the adult population in Galicia, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality due to vaccine-preventable diseases. We aim to create an adult vaccination schedule to publicise, guide and inform citizens, patients and healthcare staff about vaccines in this stage of life. Our other objectives are to modernise the public health system through connectivity between multiple devices, locations and people in prevention and health promotion.

Material and methods

The project involved the creation of a vaccination schedule for adults, in the form of a poster, with information on the recommended vaccines for adults divided by age groups and special conditions. We have also created a blog that can be accessed directly from the poster.

In the vaccine schedule, we have used traditional methods such as colour codes, using red, yellow and green, and new technologies such as QR (Quick Response) codes.

QR codes allow immediate access to the blog, which offers appropriate, easy-to-understand information that is nevertheless scientifically rigorous. Patients can therefore interact, asking questions based on their needs and sharing their opinions (Fig. 1).

The schedule is displayed in the health centre, a clinical session is held and the blog is published online.

This project has been developed as a training activity in the 4th year of the medical residency in Family and Community Medicine at the Redondela health centre in the Vigo area of the autonomous region of Galicia.

Results

The poster's publication drew the attention of the community, due to the belief that vaccinations in adults were limited to the flu and tetanus vaccines.

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