INFLUENZA VACCINATION AND CARDIOVASCULAR RISK IN PATIENTS WITH RECENT TIA AND STROKE

Bayzidur Rahman, Anita Heywood, Aye Moa, C. Raina MacIntyre, Sydney, Australia: Lavallée et al.¹ found no effect of influenza vaccination on risk of cardiovascular disease in recent TIA or stroke patients. Vaccination status was determined by baseline self-report, which has poor validity and is subject to recall bias.² This can result in misclassification of vaccination status and bias of the reported effect.

Vaccination timing was not presented in the 3 component studies. Survival analysis was conducted on a baseline vaccination status for any cardiovascular event occurring during the 2-year follow-up. Without annual vaccination data, it is unknown whether participants were protected by vaccination at the time of subsequent cardiovascular events.

The pooling of data from 3 separate studies for the main analyses is not ideal. The analyses should appropriately consider between-study variation (e.g., individual patient data meta-analysis).³ Two of the component studies (OPTIC and PERFORM) were multicentered (clustered), which also warrants consideration. This study failed to show an unbiased effect of vaccination on cardiovascular events, which conflicts with data showing such an effect.⁴,⁵

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MRI measurement of brain iron in patients with restless legs syndrome

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