Background. National Immunization Program (NIP) in Korea provides 17 types of mandatory vaccines for all children free of charge. However, vaccine-hesitant group refusing the NIP are being a major threat to public health. We analyzed the healthcare utilization pattern observed in NIP eligible children and sought to identify those who remain unvaccinated using national population data.

Methods. History of receiving protein conjugate pneumococcal vaccine (PCV) was reviewed to determine the vaccination status of children born between 2013 and 2015. Children who had 3-doses or more out of 3+1 schedule were defined vaccinated, while those with no record of vaccination were defined unvaccinated. Their healthcare utilization records, including a number of visits, totality and duration, type of institution (hospitals, complementary and alternative medicine (CAM)), and purpose of visits (outpatient care, hospitalization), were retrieved from the National Health Insurance (NHI) Review and Assessment Service. Annual healthcare utilization rate and incidence of pneumococcal infections were estimated with Poisson regression and compared between study arm. The proportion of CAM out of total healthcare utilization was also compared.

Results. Among 1,272,685 children, 51% were boys and median age was 29.4-months. Two percent of the cohort remained unvaccinated until study end. Annual hospital visiting rates were 26.9 times (95% confidence interval [CI] 26.9–27.0) for vaccinated and 3.4 (95% CI 3.4–3.5) for unvaccinated. Average NHI benefit period per year was 28.8 days (95% CI 28.8–29.0) for vaccinated and 3.9 (95% CI 3.8–3.9) for unvaccinated. The discrepancy resulted in under-detection of pneumococcal incidence in unvaccinated with 10.1 cases (95% CI 9.9–10.4) per 1,000 child-months whereas that of vaccinated was 42.5 (95% CI 42.4–42.6). Vaccine-hesitant children preferred CAM at least 3-times more than vaccinated children (CAM proportion 3.5% in hesitant group vs. 1.07% in vaccinated group, P < 0.001).

Conclusion. Vaccine hesitancy not only reduces vaccination but also tends to opt-out from the entire medical attention and prefer CAM. Active detection considering this different pattern should be implemented in order to ensure the public benefits from the vaccination program.

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1633. Human Co-infection with Borrelia burgdorferi and Babesia microti Among High-Risk Hispanic/Latino Workers on Eastern Long Island, New York: A Preliminary Cross-Sectional Analysis in 2016

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Background. Lyme disease has serious public health implications and has a high prevalence in Suffolk County, NY. Furthermore, there is a high risk for coinfection with Babesiosis, a potentially life-threatening tick-borne infection in the same area. This population-based cohort study was implemented in 2016 to assess the risk factors for Babesiosis among the Hispanic/Latino work population, which gave us the opportunity to measure clinical and epidemiological features of co-infection.

Methods. Invitation to participate in the study occurred during a Spanish educational lecture about tick-borne diseases. Following signed informed consent, a questionnaire and blood sample were obtained from participating workers. Babesiosis was defined based on 2-tiered serologic testing. Antibodies to Borrelia burgdorferi and Babesia microti were detected by indirect immunofluorescence assay (IFA). Between June and December 2016, 126/199 (66%) with a completed visit 1 (survey and blood draw) were included in the final analysis.

Results. Sample characteristics include 60% 18–39 years old, 75% male, 79% had elementary school education or less, 86% reported having tick exposure, 79% lived in Eastern North Fork, 65% lived 10 or more years in the United States, and 48% were gardeners and landscapers. The seroprevalence for Borrelia burgdorferi, Babesiosis microti, and co-infection were n = 13 (10.3%), n = 36 (28.6%), and n = 7 (5.6%), respectively. In the univariate analysis having fatigue and fever during first 24 h, stiff neck or joint pain or facial paralysis or previous diagnosis of other tick-borne diseases were associated with co-infection (Pearson’s chi-square, P < 0.05).

Conclusion. However, none of these factors were statistically significant in the multivariate analysis after adjusting for the above variables. In this initial study, a high prevalence of Babesiosis was found. A larger sample size may be needed to better assess the risk of coinfection in this Lyme endemic area.

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1634. A Mobile Application for Management and Surveillance of Vector-borne Diseases in Cali, Colombia: An Evaluation of Usability and Acceptability in a Hospital Setting

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Background. Vector-borne diseases are a public health problem in Colombia, an area that has become hyperendemic for dengue virus. This situation has been aggravated by the introduction of other arboviruses such as chikungunya and Zika in the last 3 years. Mobile health (mHealth) offers new strategies for strengthening healthcare and surveillance systems. A large number of mHealth tools are available; however, very few have been evaluated regarding users’ acceptability and usability. This study aimed to evaluate the usability and acceptability of a mobile application, FeverDX, as a support tool in the management of patients with febrile syndrome and suspected vector-borne infection by general practitioners from Colombia.

Methods. The usability and acceptability of FeverDX were evaluated using the modified version of the Mobile Application Rating Scale (uMARS). The evaluation included aspects of content, user engagement, functionality, user-interface design, impact, and subjective quality.

Results. Between December 2016 and January 2017, a total of 20 general practitioners evaluated FeverDX. Seventy-five percent of the evaluators reported being aware of the Colombian Ministry of Health guidelines for diagnosis and management of arboviruses. 80% of evaluators partially or completely agreed the application in agreement with management guidelines. On uMARS scale, FeverDX excelled regarding impact (median = 5/5, IQR = 5–5), functionality (5/5, 4.8–5), and informative and scientific basis (4/5, 4–4). FeverDX scored well regarding user feedback (median = 4/5, IQR = 4–4.5); design and esthetics (4/5, 4–4.3); and subjective assessment of observability (4/5, 4–4.8).

Conclusion. Despite a large number of mHealth tools available, the literature lacks evaluated and evidence-based mobile technology. Applying Information and Communications Technologies in health areas can strengthen care processes and facilitate the prescription and reporting of surveillances diseases. Assess the usability and acceptability of mobile health applications increases the reliability of these technologies. The mobile app, FeverDX, can improve adherence to guidelines for management and prevention of prevalent diseases.

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1635. Analysis of Antibiotic-Related Malpractice Claims, 2007 to 2016

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Background. The threat of medical liability can influence physician behavior and lead to the practice of "defensive medicine." Concern for malpractice liability has been cited as a cause of inappropriate antibiotic prescribing. Data on malpractice claims related to antibiotic use (AU) are lacking. The objectives of this analysis were to describe malpractice claims associated with AU.

Methods. We conducted a retrospective analysis of pooled closed antibiotic-related claims from a malpractice carrier representing 30% of US malpractice cases from January 2007 to December 2016. We described antibiotic-related, malpractice claims, patient demographics, amount of indemnity paid, clinical severity, settings, responsible services, initial diagnoses, drug classes, and causes of allegation.

Results. Between 2007 to 2016, 767 antibiotic-related claims were identified and represented less than 1% of overall claims. A total of $123 million were paid for antibiotic-related claims. Claims classified as medium to high clinical severity constituted 97% of all claims, with 35% having permanent injury and 24% leading to death. Of all patients, 56% were female, 8% were < 20 years of age, and 32% were ≥ 60 years old. Most claims (51%) were associated with outpatient settings, 37% in inpatient, and 11% in emergency department settings. Responsible services with the highest number of claims were medicine (44%), surgery (27%) and the emergency medicine (9%). The most common infection cited as an initial diagnosis was respiratory (10%), followed by urinary (7%) and skin and soft-tissue infections (6%). The most common class cited was β-lactams (19%), followed by fluoroquinolones (14%) and sulfa-drugs (11%). Allocations associated with antibiotic administration and management constituted 62% of all claims, 19% were related to failure or delay in diagnosis or treatment, and 19% were due to other causes.

Conclusion. Claims related to AU were not a common cause of malpractice claims in these data source. Antibiotic administration and management was more commonly associated with malpractice claims than failure or delay in AU. A better understanding of malpractice claims associated with AU can help guide messaging on improving antibiotic prescribing.

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