



## CORRESPONDENCE

## Administration of pneumococcal vaccine in Hajj



Dear Editor

We have some comments regarding recent papers on pneumococcal vaccination published in Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease. As Sridhar et al. stated getting pneumonia is one of the serious conditions in Hajj [1]. We have also mentioned to the importance of this problem in some published papers [2,3]. However, pneumococci is not the unique cause of pneumonia in Hajj and there are a wide variety of the microorganisms which are responsible for developing pneumonia including *Acinetobacter* sp., *Klebsiella* sp., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus* sp., *Escherichia coli* [4], viruses [5], atypical organisms, mycobacterium tuberculosis, etc [6]. Therefore, it might be better that the word of pneumococcal pathogens was replaced with pneumonia by the respected authors in the table 1. Moreover, we think that the questions related to the attitude and performances in KAP questionnaire are not too bright in table 3.

Additionally, as Sridhar et al. mentioned and Rashid et al. previously had stated [7], we recommend pneumovax-23 vaccine for the high risk groups. Based on our previous research, applying flu-vaccine alone or in combination with pneumovax-23 would decrease the mean duration of fever, cough, post nasal discharge, purulent sputum excretion, bed rest, number of visits by the doctor and total period of respiratory disease, especially in high risk groups. However, only the effect of the combined two vaccines on reducing of cough duration was significant ( $P = 0.001$ ) in our study [8]. Therefore, we suggest that the high-risk groups would be immunized with combination of flu and pneumovax-23 vaccines in Hajj.

## Authors' contributions

1. Dr. Seyed mansour Razavi designed the idea, drafted the paper and approved the version to be published.
2. Dr. Payman Salamati designed the idea, revised the paper critically and approved the version to be published.

## Ethics committee approval

The paper has been prepared in accordance with the rules of the ethical review board of Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

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None.

## Conflict of interest

None.

## References

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