

【Symposium 6-2】

Vaccinations in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease

Jiun-Chi Huang

Division of Nephrology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kaohsiung Municipal Siaogang Hospital, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) are at heightened risk for infections due to immune system dysfunction and comorbidities. Vaccinations play a pivotal role in mitigating these risks, but immunization strategies must be tailored to their unique health needs. This presentation focuses on updated vaccination guidelines for hepatitis B virus (HBV), influenza, pneumococcal disease, COVID-19, herpes zoster, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in CKD patients.

Hepatitis B remains a significant threat, particularly in patients undergoing dialysis. Enhanced immunogenicity HBV vaccines, such as HEPLISAV-B, have shown better efficacy in CKD patients and are now recommended to ensure robust and sustained immunity. For influenza, annual vaccination is critical, with high-dose vaccines preferred in CKD patients aged ≥ 65 .

Pneumococcal infections can lead to severe complications, including pneumonia and invasive disease. The conjugate vaccine PCV13 or PCV15, followed by PPSV23, is now emphasized for comprehensive protection in Taiwan. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of vaccination in vulnerable populations, including CKD patients. Updated booster schedules tailored for CKD patients aim to enhance protection against evolving SARS-CoV-2 variants.

Herpes zoster vaccination with recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV) is strongly recommended for CKD patients aged 50 and older, given their increased risk for shingles and its complications. Finally, the recent approval of RSV vaccines for adults provides a new avenue for protecting CKD patients from severe respiratory infections, particularly during RSV outbreaks.

