Drugs

PEER-REVIEWED FEATURE

20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine: Adis Evaluation

Clinical Considerations

- Based on PCV13, with the addition of polysaccharide conjugates of seven more *S. pneumoniae* serotypes
- Licensed in the USA and EU for active immunisation for the prevention of invasive disease and pneumonia caused by *S. pneumoniae* in adults
- Elicits robust immune responses to all 20 *S. pneumoniae* serotypes covered by the vaccine
- Well tolerated, with a tolerability and safety profile similar to that for PCV13

Plain Language Summary

Background and rationale

- Pneumonia and other diseases caused by infection with the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae* are a significant health concern worldwide, although a minority of the >100 *S. pneumoniae* serotypes (or variants) are responsible for the majority of disease.
- The introduction of vaccines targeting multiple *S. pneumoniae* serotypes [such as the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13; Prevnar13®; Prevenar 13®)] has had a significant effect in reducing pneumococcal disease; however, serotypes not covered by PCV13 still cause significant disease.
- Recently, a new vaccine [20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20; Prevnar20®; Apexxnar®)] has been developed and licensed for use in immunisation for the prevention of invasive disease and pneumonia caused by *S. pneumoniae* in adults.

Clinical findings

- The ability of PCV20 (administered as a single dose by intramuscular injection) to elicit strong immune responses to all 20 serotypes covered by the vaccine was demonstrated in a well-designed program of clinical trials.
- PCV20 is well tolerated, with pain at the injection site and muscle pain being the most common adverse reactions.

Conclusion

- By expanding the coverage of disease-causing *S. pneumoniae* serotypes, PCV20 presents a valuable new tool with the potential to further reduce the impact of pneumococcal disease.