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Practice-Based Education Program to Increase Vaccination Rate in Patients on Immunotherapeutic Agents

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Practice-Based Education Program to Increase Vaccination Rate in Patients on Immunosuppressive Agents

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Problem

- Immunosuppressive agents have changed the course of debilitating autoimmune conditions, but come with an increased risk of vaccine preventable infections¹
- Vaccine indications and dosing recommendations are not being adhered to regularly by primary and speciality practices

Background

- Multiple organizations recommend scheduled influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations in all patients on chronic immunosuppression^{2,3}
- According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in 2014, vaccination adherence remains low amongst high-risk persons aged 19–64 years⁴

Aim

- Implement a protocolized vaccination program for patients on immunosuppressive medications to increase influenza and pneumococcal vaccination adherence by at least 15% for each vaccine

Measures

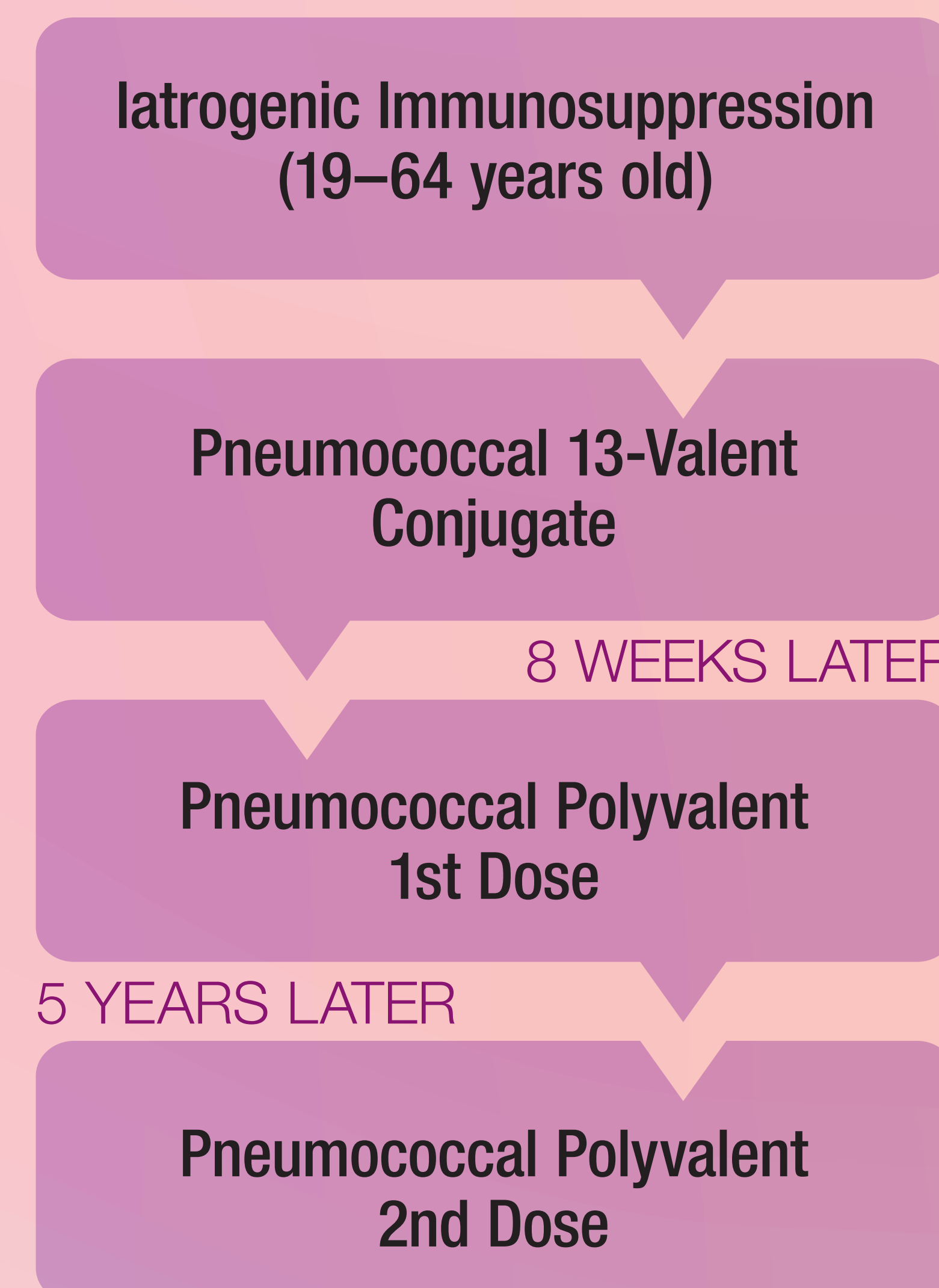
- Retrospective chart analysis of 756 patients on biologic agents in a primary care setting
- Patients were evaluated for compliance with CDC guidelines for immunocompromised individuals for the 3 vaccines listed below:

- 1 Influenza
- 2 Pevnar 13
- 3 Pneumovax 23

Intervention

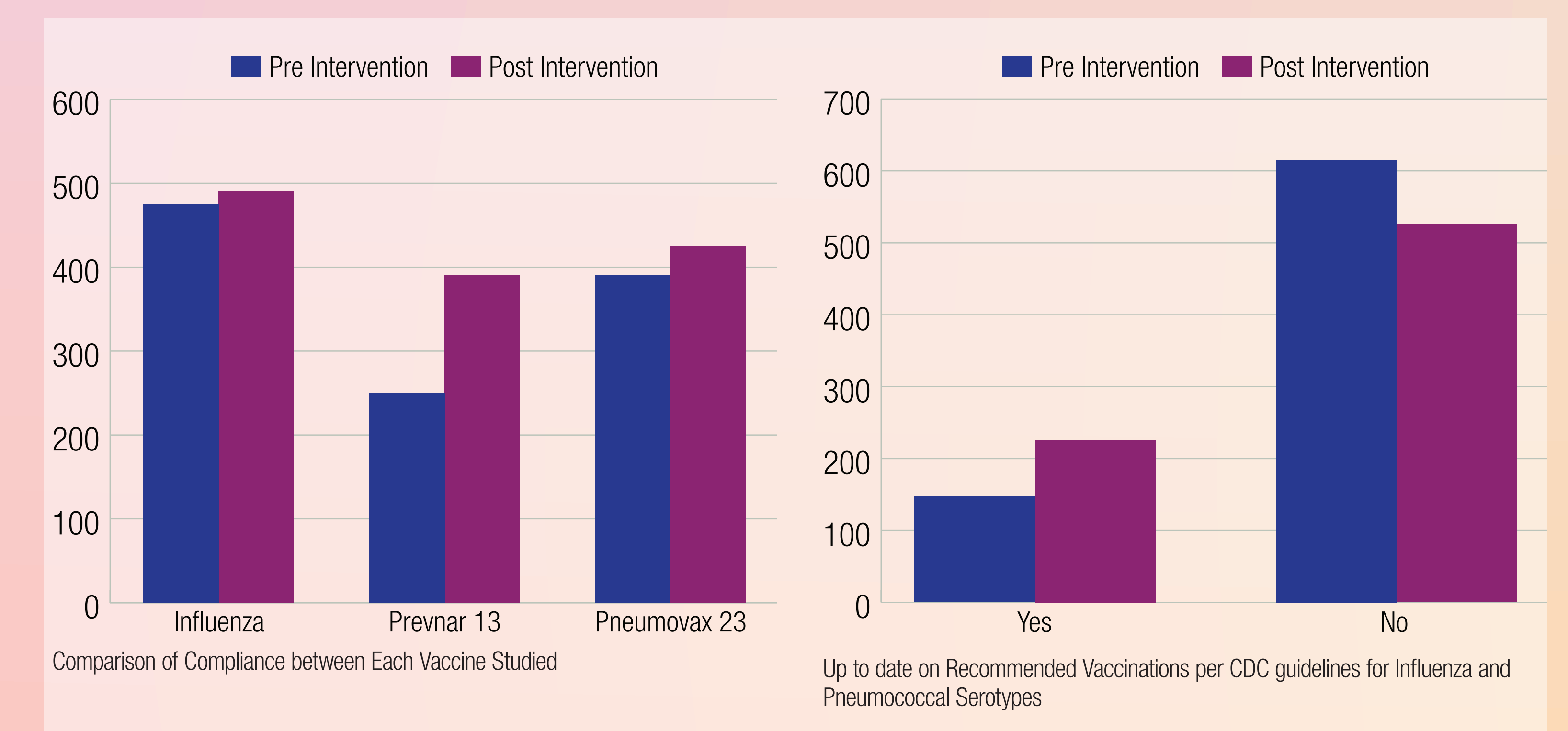
- Educational outreach sessions were performed for all providers of internal medicine and rheumatology practices biannually
- Information sheets were displayed in all involved practices

Pneumonia Vaccination Schedule



Current Results

- There was an increase in overall vaccination adherence by 11% (n=81) in an at risk patient population



Future Steps

- A vaccination clinic is being developed in order to improve access to patients requiring vaccinations
- We will optimize our best practice alert advisory through electronic medical record to notify providers of vaccine schedules for our at risk population

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