



Discussion points:

Vaccines for preventing influenza in healthy adults

Clinical considerations

- What do you think of the findings of the Cochrane review?
 - The authors are cautious about their findings because of the potential for bias in the results of the trials that they were able to include. Do you agree?
 - The review includes both relative estimates, such as the risk ratio and vaccine efficacy, and absolute estimates, such as risk differences and numbers needed to vaccinate? Which do you prefer for understanding their findings?
- How should this review influence decisions about the use of vaccines to prevent influenza in healthy adults?
 - If 33 people need to be vaccinated with a perfectly matched vaccine to prevent 1 person from developing influenza is this worthwhile?
 - If the vaccine was not perfectly matched to the circulating influenza, this number needed to vaccinate increased to 100. Is this worthwhile?
 - What number needed to vaccinate would be low enough to justify your use of influenza vaccines? What number be too high to justify their use?
 - Would you be willing to take part in a randomised trial of influenza vaccine versus placebo?
- Would other information help in making a decision about the use of influenza vaccines?
 - Would you like to see more information on the effects of vaccines on transmission and on harms? Where might this information come from if it is not available in the studies included in this review?
 - If you were responsible for making policy decisions about the vaccination of large groups of the population, what would you like to know about the costs and time involved? Where would you get this information?
 - Are you concerned about the potential for bias in findings available from the included studies? How would you investigate these biases?