

# COMPLIANCE WITH HERPES ZOSTER VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS IN PATIENTES TREATED WITH JAK KINASE INHIBITORS

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## BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Patients in treatment with janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) have an increased risk of herpes zoster virus (HZV) infection. Since March 2021, a document on HZV vaccination recommendations has been available in our country, recommending vaccination of patients receiving JAKi therapy.

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES.

The purpose was to analyze the degree of compliance with these recommendations in rheumatologic and digestive patients receiving JAKi therapy in a regional hospital.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS.

Retrospective and observational study

Patients diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), Crohn's disease (CD) or ulcerative colitis (UC) who received JAKi treatment from March 2021 to March 2025.

## VARIABLES

- ✓ Age and sex.
- ✓ Diagnosis.
- ✓ Anti-JAK treatment received.
- ✓ HZV vaccination.
- ✓ HZV infection as a side effect.



## RESULTS.

Treatments analyzed	N=79
Patients	70
Sex	46 women
Age (median)	55 (24-95) years
Diagnosis	n = 40 AR, n = 12 AS; n = 8 UC; n = 3 CD
Anti-JAK treatment received	1 (90%); 2 (7%); 3 (3%). Upadacitinib (40%), baricitinib (35%), tofacitinib (24%) y filgotinib (11%).

### HZV vaccination

- 31 patients were given the opportunity to be vaccinated following the established recommendations:
  - ✓ 14% before starting JAKi
  - ✓ 25% after starting them.
- 48 patients did not have the option of vaccination

**Acceptance degree: 80%.**

### HZV infection as side effect

- 2 patients who had not been vaccinated

## CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE.

- The degree of compliance with HZV vaccination recommendations in patients with rheumatic and/or digestive diseases receiving JAKi is relatively low in our hospital.
- Although the incidence of HZV infection observed in our patients was very low and similar to that described in various studies, discontinuation of treatment was required in both patients. This implies that HZV vaccination is essential.
- A vaccination protocol must be established in collaboration with Preventive Medicine Service to comply with these recommendations and to reduce the incidence of HZV in these patients.



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