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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

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THE LANCET: NEARLY HALF OF CANCER DEATHS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO RISK FACTORS, INCLUDING SMOKING, ALCOHOL, AND HIGH BMI

A recently published study on the impact of 34 risk factors on deaths and illnesses from 23 cancer types indicates that they accounted for 4.45 million cancer deaths globally in 2019 (44.4% of all cancer deaths) for both sexes combined. Smoking, use of alcohol, as well as high body mass index (BMI) were pointed out as the core causes.

The study, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, examined the relationship between particular risk factors and cancer, which remains the second leading cause of death worldwide. To achieve this, researchers have been using data from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's Global Burden of Disease project. The new study is the first one to assess how a comprehensive list of risk factors influences cancer deaths and health on global, regional, as well as national levels over time and among diverse age groups and sexes.

The data also showed that risk-attributable cancer deaths are spiking worldwide by more than 20% from 2010 to 2019. In 2019, the main five regions in terms of risk-attributable death rates were: Western Europe, Central Europe, East Asia, North America, and Southern Latin America.

In addition, in an editorial published alongside the new study in The Lancet, Dr Diana Sarfati and Jason Gurney of „Te Aho o Te Kahu Cancer Control Agency” from New Zealand claimed that preventable risk factors linked to cancer are patterned according to the poverty.

Source: [https://www.thelancet.com/issue/S1470-2045\(22\)X0009-0](https://www.thelancet.com/issue/S1470-2045(22)X0009-0)

EMA ISSUED GUIDELINES FOR MONKEYPOX VIRUS VACCINATION

On Thursday (22 August), the European Medicines Agency (EMA) Task Force issued new recommendations on administering the monkeypox virus vaccine. After reviewing data concerning different types of injections, it has issued guidance to use an intradermal one. This solution results in a similar level of antibodies as the subcutaneous injection and a smaller dose of vaccine is required so that it can be administered to more people.

The Task Force reviewed data from a clinical trial involving approximately 500 adults and compared the intradermally injected vaccine with the one injected subcutaneously in 2 doses. The interval between each dose took four weeks. Those receiving the vaccine intracutaneously received one-fifth (0.1 ml) of the subcutaneous dose (0.5 ml) but produced similar levels of antibodies in comparison with those who received the higher subcutaneous dose.

At the same time, the Task Force noted there was a higher risk of local reactions (e.g. longer-lasting redness, thickening or discolouration of the skin) after intradermal injections. Nevertheless, the Task Force observed that there is no information available on the maximum number of 0.1 ml doses that can be taken from the approved formulation (0.5 ml suspension). Therefore, it recommends syringes with low dead volume to optimise the number of jabs that can be taken.

Source: <https://www.pei.de/EN/newsroom/hp-news/2022/220823-etf-ema-publishes-review-data-intradermal-use-imvanex.html?nn=164440>

EGGS ARE THE MAIN FOOD SOURCE OF SALMONELLA

INFECTION OUTBREAKS IN EUROPE, A NEW STUDY SUGGESTS

According to the data collected by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), eggs and egg products account for the largest number of salmonellosis outbreaks, followed by pork and general meat products. The researchers drew such conclusions by analysing a list of 18 sources of food from 34 European countries between 2015 and 2019.

It is worth noting that there was a significant increase in infections during the abovementioned period. The largest number of incidents was reported in Eastern Europe, with 939 outbreaks caused by Salmonella Enteritidis, 130 by Salmonella Typhimurium, 107 by other known serotypes, and 332 by unknown types.

The food list did not include complex food types, such as buffet meals or mixed food, sweets and chocolate, drinks, or bakery products. All these products were grouped as unknown sources as it was not possible to identify the components responsible for the infection.

When it comes to regional differences regarding the sources of outbreaks, pork was the second most common factor in Northern and Western Europe and other meat products in the Eastern and Southern parts of the continent. The rate of salmonellosis attributed to eggs did not differ geographically, however.

Source: <https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2022/08/study-finds-most-eu-salmonella-outbreaks-involve-eggs/#more-218122>

Thank you for your attention!

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