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Adjuvanted Vaccines: The Modern Era in Flu Prevention for Older Adults

ReachMD Announcer:
Welcome to ReachMD. This medical industry feature, titled “Adjuvanted Vaccines: The Modern Era in Flu Prevention for Older Adults,” is sponsored by CSL Seqirus.

Voiceover:
Gather round, astute health care professionals!

In June of the year 2022, the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted unanimously in favor of recommending specific influenza vaccines, including adjuvanted and higher-dose vaccines, over standard-dose options for adults 65 years and older.[1] That’s a real humdinger of a milestone for public health! But, why?

Well, I’m here to tell you that lower vaccine effectiveness in older adults is a real conundrum, making healthcare professionals say “humbug” and “fiddlesticks” every flu season.

You see, there are several factors that can impact vaccine effectiveness in adults 65 years and older, one of them being ‘immunosenescence’—an age-related decline of the immune system that can increase one’s vulnerability to influenza infection and its complications.[2]

Meanwhile, older adults are at higher risk of not mounting a sufficient response to traditional flu vaccines, impacting vaccine effectiveness.[2]

But that’s not all. Another important factor is strain mismatch, which occurs when circulating influenza strains don’t match the World Health Organization vaccine-selected strains.[3,4]

Taken together, it’s as clear as a summer day. To help reduce flu-related complications in older adults, we simply *must* have influenza vaccines capable of driving enhanced immune responses.[5]

Thankfully, we do. And one of the tools we have at our disposal is the adjuvanted influenza vaccine!

Let’s take a closer look at adjuvants, aka those substances added to vaccines to boost the immune response. These are key ingredients helping vaccines address the challenges of immunosenescence in adults 65 and older by strengthening, broadening, and lengthening the duration of the immune response.[6-8]

Let’s take, for example, an oil-in-water adjuvant with a biodegradable and biocompatible composition.[7]

At the injection site, this adjuvant, along with the antigen, recruits immune cells and differentiates these cells into antigen-presenting cells, or APCs for short.

From there, T-cell activation and B-cell expansion take place within the lymph nodes.[9-13]

When paired with an antigen, this dynamic little adjuvant-that-could stimulates more immune cells to create more diverse, cross-reactive antibodies over a longer duration of time.[6-8]

The result? You guessed it. A *strengthened*, *broadened*, and more *persistent* immune response![6-8]

Why, that's just what we're looking for in a vaccine for older adults: one that is designed to address the challenges of immunosenescence and mismatch between circulating viruses and vaccine strains.

Isn't that right, adjuvant? You betcha.

Yes, friends, the time for leveraging advanced options to enhance vaccine effectiveness in older adults is now at hand.[14]

So when choosing a flu vaccine for patients 65 and older, consider the *adjuvanted* influenza vaccine!

ReachMD Announcer:
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