

Study uncovers potentially avoidable acute care use for vaccine-preventable illnesses in lupus patients

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A new study published in *Arthritis Care & Research* indicates that few individuals with the autoimmune disease lupus who were publicly insured through Medicaid received recommended vaccines in 2000-2010. Also, those who were unvaccinated needed more acute care for vaccine-preventable illnesses.

From 2000-2010, there were 1,290 patients who visited the emergency department or were hospitalized for vaccine-preventable illness, and 93% of these visits occurred in patients without billing codes for related vaccinations. Patients who were Black had a 22% higher risk of needing such care than those who were white.

"These episodes represent missed opportunities to deliver essential preventive care to our patients, and particularly to [patients](#) with heightened vulnerabilities," said lead author Candace H. Feldman, MD, ScD, of Brigham and Women's Hospital.

More information: Candace H. Feldman et al, Avoidable Acute Care Use for Vaccine-Preventable Illnesses among Medicaid Beneficiaries with Lupus, *Arthritis Care & Research* (2021). [DOI: 10.1002/acr.24628](https://doi.org/10.1002/acr.24628)

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