

# Low pneumococcal vaccination coverage in France: would a vaccination in the 65+ help identifying at-risk population?

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## INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVE

In France, pneumococcal vaccination coverage in adults living with chronic medical conditions or immunodepression has been estimated to 4.5% in 2018. By contrast, influenza vaccine uptake in both at-risk and 65+ patients is >50 % each year. We assessed whether an age-based recommendation above 65 years of age could leverage pneumococcal vaccine uptake by easily identifying at risk patients, as in many European countries.

## METHODS

COVARISQ is a retrospective cohort study with a pre-index date period to identify populations at risk; the duration of this period depends on the pathology sought, and some algorithms can go back as far as 2009. It goes back to 01/01/2009 to estimate vaccination dispensations. The data collection relies on the access to the French National health data system. All at-risk adults affiliated in 2020 to this system were included, using algorithms searching for pathologies of interest coded in ICD10, long-term conditions (ALD), history of hospitalizations, treatments and specific biological tests. According to the French vaccination guidelines at study time, eligible individuals for pneumococcal primovaccination (PCV13 followed by PPSV23) were patients with a chronic disease putting them at risk of pneumococcal infections, and immunocompromised patients.

## RESULTS

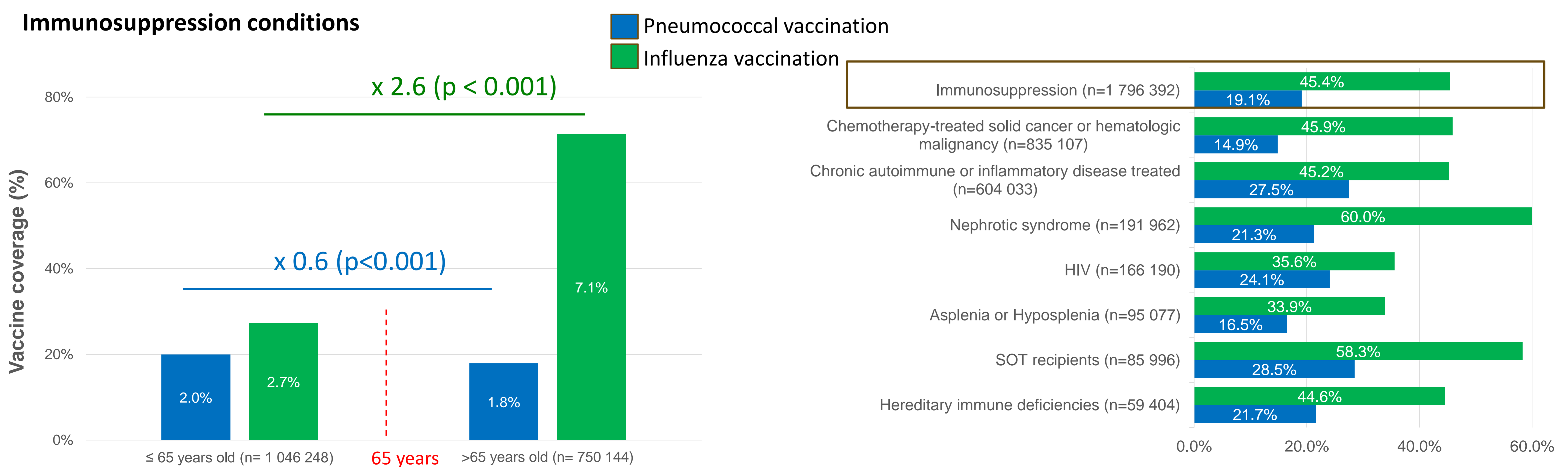
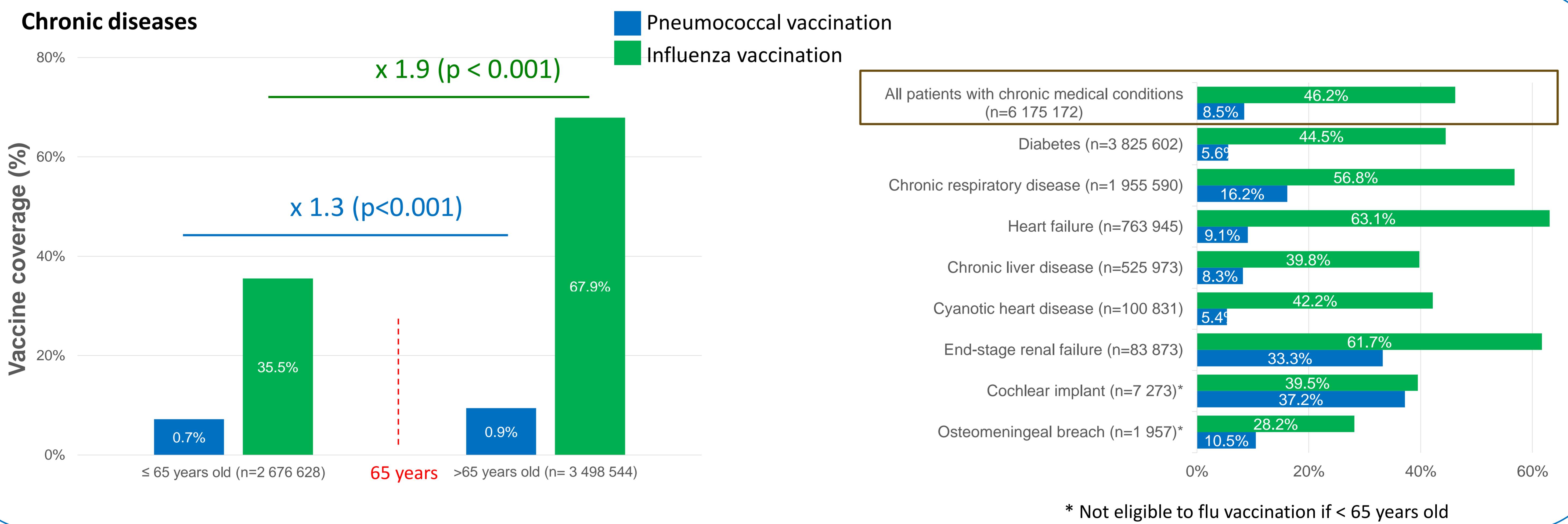
### Characteristics of patients (Table 1) :

In 2020, we identified 7 336 769 adults living with conditions at risk of pneumococcal infection. Among them, 53% (3.9 millions) were > 65 years old (in chronic condition 57%, in immunocompromised patients 42%). Most frequent chronic conditions were diabetes (52%) and chronic respiratory diseases (27%).

Patients living with	Chronic disease	Immunosuppression	Total (at least one risk)
Patients, N	6 175 172	1 796 392	7 336 769
Women, N (%)	2 827 988 (46)	1 005 288 (56)	3 538 000 (48)
Age, years:			
Mean (SD)	66.6 (14.6)	59.8 (17.5)	65.0 (15.6)
Median (Q1-Q3)	68.0 (58-77)	61.0 (47-73)	67.0 (55-76)
Age > 65 y, N (%)	<b>3 498 544 (57)</b>	<b>750 144 (42)</b>	<b>3 880 922 (53)</b>

### Vaccine coverages :

Vaccination coverage of all at risk patients was 9.9% for pneumococcal vaccine and 48.9% for influenza vaccine.



## CONCLUSION

In 2020, 7.3 million patients were at risk of pneumococcal disease in France. Their pneumococcal vaccination coverage was 9.9%, but 48.9% for flu vaccination. Flu vaccine coverage is highly increased after 65 years old. Setting a vaccination age at 65 for pneumococcal vaccination would help to improve their vaccination coverage.