

BACKGROUND

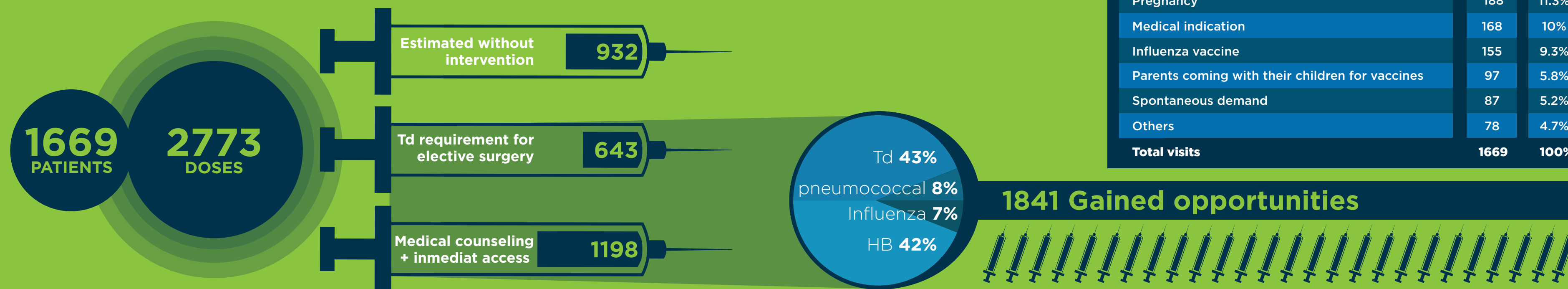
The National Immunization Program in Argentina recommends tetanus and diphtheria vaccine (Td) and hepatitis B vaccine (HB) for all healthy adults and influenza and pneumococcal vaccines for special populations. Despite the fact that these vaccines are free and without requirement for prescription, rates of vaccination remain low in adults. Barriers observed in adult immunization include pediatric bias, lack of physician recommendations and limited access. Improving adults vaccination coverage remains a major challenge.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this study is to assess a vaccination strategy in order to enhance adults vaccination compliance in a single institution.

RESULTS

A total of 1669 adults came to the vaccination center and received 2773 doses; 65% were women, and the average age was 47 +/- 18. As a result of this strategy, 1841 extra doses of vaccines were given (gained opportunities): 775 HB, 146 pneumococcal, 133 influenza and 787 Td doses. This represents an increase of 197.5% over the 932 doses estimated without intervention.



CONCLUSIONS

A restrictive policy for elective surgery and medical counseling at the vaccination center together with access to vaccination during the initial visit allowed us to achieve new vaccination opportunities in an adult population. This simple strategy may be easily replicated in other centers.