Letters

In the retrospective audit, five of 58 patients who had been screened for schistosomiasis returned positive serology results, indicating past or current infection. In the prospective sample, one of 22 patients was found to have a past or current Schistosoma infection that was previously undiagnosed despite the patient originating from an endemic country.

In our retrospective analysis, seven of 83 patients who had been screened for strongyloidiasis returned positive serology results, indicating past or current infection. In the prospective phase, one of 20 patients was found to have a past or current S. stercoralis infection that was previously undiagnosed despite the patient having come from an endemic country.

In the prospective cohort study among adult patients who had undergone post-traumatic splenectomy at a tertiary referral centre in Sydney, to assess compliance by health professionals and identify factors that could improve uptake of ASID recommendations. We reviewed hospital medical records and discharge summaries to assess compliance with recommendations before and after the publication of the ASID guidelines.

The Research and Ethics Office of the South Western Sydney Local Health District granted site-specific approval on the basis of low and negligible risk.

A total of 79 patients were identified, 37 in the preguideline group (January 2003 – June 2008) and 42 in the postguideline group (July 2008 – December 2013). Our findings are summarised in the Box.

Overall, compliance with the recommendations was poor, except for the rate of first vaccination against Streptococcus pneumoniae, Neisseria meningitidis and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Box). At discharge, most patients were advised to follow up with their general practitioner; however, GPs were neither provided with the information on the type of vaccination given in the hospital, nor with the appropriate recommendation on follow-up vaccinations.

Competing interests: No relevant disclosures.

doi: 10.5694/mja14.01636

References are available online at www.mja.com.au.