



Elizabeth Hart <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

Vaccination/immunisation - live MMR vaccine second dose

Elizabeth Hart <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

Fri, May 2, 2014 at 4:27 PM

To: Peter R Mansfield <peter.mansfield@adelaide>, peter@healthyskepticism

Cc: "Jureidini, Jon (Health)" <Jon.Jureidini@health>

Peter, re my email below and attachments. I wonder if you have had an opportunity to consider the arguments I have put forward to the NHMRC re the **second dose** of the live MMR vaccine? **It would be very useful to have a healthcare practitioner's viewpoint on this.**

To summarise, according to the GSK PRIORIX Product Information Leaflet, most seronegative individuals are likely to be immune after the **first dose** of effective MMR vaccine.

Antibody titre testing provides an option to verify a response to MMR vaccination. **In the state of New Jersey in the US, there is an "Antibody Titer Law" which gives parents a choice of an antibody titre test BEFORE they consent to a second dose of measles/mumps/rubella vaccine (see pamphlet attached.)**

I question why all parents aren't provided with this evidence-based option?

As you are a GP, and a Visiting Research Fellow in the Discipline of General Practice (Uni of Adelaide), I would be very interested in your thoughts on this matter. Your association with 'Healthy Skepticism' is also pertinent.

Today I rang the Australian Medical Association to check whether healthcare practitioners are under any legal obligation to follow the National Immunisation Program Schedule, **and it appears they are not legally obligated to follow these 'recommendations'**. (I understand that in the past doctors received incentive payments in relation to vaccination rates, but that these incentives have now been discontinued.)

I suggest that people in the community, particularly the parents of small children, would be under great pressure to acquiesce to the government's vaccination 'recommendations', and that healthcare practitioners would be the front-line 'sales force' in this regard. Parents and others would expect to trust their healthcare practitioner's advice on this matter.

However, I question whether valid consent is being obtained. For example, the Australian Immunisation Handbook (10th edition) provides criteria for consent to vaccination to be legally valid, i.e.:

- 1. It must be given by a person with legal capacity, and of sufficient intellectual capacity to understand the implications of being vaccinated.*
- 2. It must be given voluntarily in the absence of undue pressure, coercion or manipulation.**
- 3. It must cover the specific procedure that is to be performed.*
- 4. It can only be given after the **potential risks and benefits of the relevant vaccine**, risks of not having it **and any alternative options** have been explained to the individual. The individual must have sufficient opportunity to seek further details or explanations about the vaccine(s) and/or its administration... (My emphasis.)*

In the case of live MMR vaccination, are parents being informed of the option of antibody titre testing to verify a response to the *first dose* of 'live' MMR vaccine, an option which some careful parents might prefer and be willing to pay for rather than an arbitrary *second dose* of live MMR vaccine?

Again, I'd appreciate your response on this matter Peter. (My letters to to the NHMRC provide more detail.)

Regards
Elizabeth Hart

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Hart** <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 22, 2014 at 8:51 PM
Subject: Vaccination - Pet and Human
To: Peter R Mansfield <peter.mansfield@adelaide>
Cc: "Jureidini, Jon (Health)" <Jon.Jureidini@health>

Peter, you might recall I contacted you back in 2009 regarding vaccination of pets.

I have continued to work on this matter, along with my colleague Bea Mies. We had some success in getting publicity re over-vaccination of pets, particularly an article in CHOICE in 2010, i.e. "**Pet vaccination - over-vaccinating your pet could be harmful to their health as well as your own hip pocket**": <http://www.choice.com.au/reviews-and-tests/household/backyard/pets/pet-vaccination/page.aspx> , and also a report on the ABC: "**Questions raised over pet vaccination**": <http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2010/10/01/3027666.htm?site=adelaide>

My investigation of pet vaccination has led to an interest in human vaccination. **It seems to me there is also over-vaccination of people, although in the current oppressive climate it is very difficult to raise concern about vaccine products.**

I am persevering though, and have established a website to publish my concerns, particularly in regards to flu, HPV, pertussis, and the live MMR vaccine product (**second dose**), as well as pet vaccines: <http://over-vaccination.net/>

In this regard, I have recently forwarded to the NHMRC Australian Health Ethics Committee letters challenging the 'required' **second dose** of the live MMR vaccine, please see letters attached.

Also attached is a copy of my recent letter to Professor Warwick Anderson, CEO of the NHMRC, **suggesting the ethical spotlight needs to be shone on the way vaccination policy and practice is being implemented in Australia. I provide examples of the lack of transparency and accountability in the vaccination bureaucracy, including the problem of potential conflicts of interest and lack of disclosure by people involved in vaccination policy.**

My letters to the NHMRC are also published on my website as a public record: <http://over-vaccination.net/letters-to-nhmrc-ethics-committee/>





I've been advised my submissions will be considered at the next meeting of the NHMRC AHEC in early May 2014.

Peter, given your position as a GP, and a practitioner of 'healthy skepticism', I'd be interested in your thoughts on my letters to the NHMRC, if you have time.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Hart

4 attachments

-  **Letter_to_NHMRC_Ethics_re_MMR_2nd_dose.pdf**
-  **Second_letter_to_NHMRC_Ethics_re_MMR_vaccination.pdf**
-  **Letter_to_Warwick_Anderson_NHMRC_re_MMR_vaccination.pdf**
-  **NJ_antibody_titer_law_pamphlet.pdf**