Title: How French physicians manage with a future change in the primary vaccination of infants against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and poliomyelitis? A qualitative study with focus groups.

Authors:

Karine Lungenarde (Kalung82@hotmail.com)
Fanette Blaizeau (blaizeau@u707.jussieu.fr)
Isabelle Auger-Aubin (isabelle.aubinauger@sfr.fr)
Daniel Floret (daniel.floret@chu-lyon.fr)
Serge Gilberg (gilberg@parisdescartes.fr)
Christine Jestin (Christine.JESTIN@inpes.sante.fr)
Thomas Hanslik (thomas.hanslik@apr.aphp.fr)
Corinne Le Goaster (Corinne.LEGOASTER@sante.gouv.fr)
Daniel Lévy-Bruhl (d.levybruhl@invs.sante.fr)
Thierry Blanchon (blanchon@u707.jussieu.fr)
Louise Rossignol (rossignol@u707.jussieu.fr)

Version: 2 Date: 15 January 2013

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “How French physicians manage with a future change in the primary vaccination of infants against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and poliomyelitis? A qualitative study with focus groups.” We submit it as a research article to the BMC Family Practice. We added ethics statement. It mention that this study has obtained the permission of the National Commission for Computing and Liberties (Opinion No. 471393, September 1996).

Regular changes are required to follow the evolution of advanced vaccinology and epidemiological characteristics; their impact on the health professional’s practices is rarely studied. In 2012, the French Technical Vaccination Committee had studied the possibility of reducing one dose of vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and inactive polio virus (DT-IPV) in childhood vaccination before the age of 2 years. In France, DT-IPV vaccination is compulsory since 1965. Changing this vaccination may represent a deep change.

That’s why it appears necessary to us to examine the perceptions of primary care physicians about a change in the childhood’s primary vaccination regarding DT-IPV vaccination. The physicians’ agreement is necessary to get high vaccination coverage.

In our research, French modification of the infants DT-IPV primary vaccination seems possible and acceptable. The preliminary evaluation of the acceptability of this modification by primary care physicians has highlighted some main points that will facilitate the implementation of the new vaccination schedule: scientific justification and health authorities’ support; simplicity and stability of vaccine recommendations; tools regarding the administration of vaccinations in the practice. These results are discussed in our article regarding international experiences.

We think that it is an original research involving practitioners before implementation of new recommendation. It helped to raise ideas to work on the improvement of its implementation.

Study’s design and results should be of interest to the BMC Family Practice readers.

Thank you very much for considering our work.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Rossignol,
On behalf of all the authors