Is Hospital Based MMR Vaccination for Children with Egg Allergy Here to Stay?

Abstract:

Sir

Over a 2 year period from 1/1/07 to 31/12/08, just 47 children were referred to hospital for MMR vaccination due to concerns regarding egg allergy (20 in 2007 and 27 in 2008). This is almost 2 per month!

HSE figures for Cork and Kerry indicate that in 2007 and 2008 in excess of 17,500 MMR first dose vaccinations were performed by GPs and AMOs. A lesser number of second dose MMR vaccines were administered in the same period. In excess of 800,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been given since the vaccine became available. A new programme to deliver 90,000 doses of cervical cancer vaccine to some 30,000 schoolgirls is underway. Challenges yet to be addressed in providing healthcare to Irish children are that many countries screen all newborn babies for profound hearing loss, Ireland does not. Many countries screen cystic fibrosis, Ireland does not. Thirty percent of children aged 2-15 years in the UK are overweight or obese. These figures are rising (HSE information centre 25/02/09). The proportion of children who had drunk alcohol in the last 7 days increased with age, from 3% of 11 year olds to 41% of 15 year olds (HSE information centre, May 2009). 11% of girls and 15% of boys aged 11-15 years reported smoking in the past week (HSE information centre September 2009). Twenty nine percent of 15 year olds report using illicit drugs in the past year (HSE information centre October 2009). 30 underage deaths from solvent use between 1998 and 2005, Irish Medical News 25/01/10.

I sympathise with the plight of my hospital colleagues dealing with just 47 referrals over a 2 year period for MMR vaccine with concerns about egg allergy. I suggest we focus our energies and research efforts on the real challenges, outlined above, facing the health of our children and young people. Otherwise we will end up with egg all over our faces.

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Reference


Comments: