

NATIONAL VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM IN KOREA: A 12-YEAR EXPERIENCE

Submitted by Jung Soo Kim

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INTRODUCTION: In Korea, the vaccine injury compensation program, which is essential for the successful national immunization program, was established in 1995.

OBJECTIVE: This study was conducted to evaluate the safety of each vaccine and the vaccine injury compensation program in Korea.

METHODS: We analyzed the data of adverse reactions filed with the advisory committee on vaccine injury compensation of Korea from 1995 through 2006.

RESULTS: A total of 1127 cases of adverse events were reported to the committee. The number of reported adverse reactions gradually increased. BCG was the most commonly reported vaccine (616 [54.7%] cases, mostly localized suppurative lymphadenitis), followed by diph-

theria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (160 [14.2%] cases, mostly neurologic responses) and measles/rubella vaccine (127 [11.3%] cases). A total of 119 cases were requested for vaccine injury compensation. The most commonly compensated vaccine was measles/rubella (31 [26%] cases), showing mostly the anxiety responses during the measles catch-up program in 2001. The second most commonly compensated vaccine was diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis with or without other vaccines (21 [16.5%] cases), followed by Japanese B encephalitis (11 [8.7%] cases) and influenza vaccine (9 [7.1%] cases). The most common and serious adverse events for injury compensation were neurologic complications such as seizure, encephalopathy, and encephalomyelitis.

CONCLUSIONS: During a 12-year period, adverse reactions were reported in 54.7% of BCG vaccination cases, 14.2% of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis vaccination cases, and 11.3% of measles/rubella vaccination cases. Vaccine injury compensation was requested in 26% of measles/rubella cases and 16.5% of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis cases. Neurologic complications were the most common and serious adverse events for injury compensation.

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