

Prevention of respiratory diseases

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Analysis of hepatitis B and tuberculosis vaccine coverage rates among neonates – results from a single maternity hospital in Warsaw (Poland)

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Introduction. Recently, the number of parents who refuse vaccinations in their children or present so called hesitant behaviours has been increasing in many developed countries.. According to the Polish National Immunization Schedule, all newborns in the first 24 hours of life, should be mandatory vaccinated against hepatitis B (hep B) and tuberculosis (with BCG vaccine), unless there are medical contraindications.

The aim of the study was to analyze the completeness and timeliness of vaccination against hepatitis B and tuberculosis in neonates in a single maternity hospital in Warsaw (Poland).

Material and methods. The medical records of children born in the hospital between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2016 were analyzed. The proportion of newborns not vaccinated on time was calculated. The analysis of reasons for delays or lack of vaccinations was conducted.

Results. The percentage of unvaccinated newborns was similar in the analyzed years: 7.2% in 2015 and 6.7% in 2016. Both years more children were not vaccinated due to parental decisions than because of medical contraindications (4.3% vs. 2.9% in 2015 and 4.7% vs. 2%, in 2016). Most parents refused to perform both vaccinations (81% -84%), 7-8% refused only vaccination against hep B, 9-11% refused only vaccination against tuberculosis. Likewise, the majority of hesitant parents decided to delay both vaccinations (70-80%), while 10-11% of parents decided to delay only one vaccination (hep B). In the consecutive years, the increasing percentage of parents who decided to postpone vaccination against tuberculosis was reported (19 vs 10%). Among the medical contraindications to vaccination, those associated with a low birth weight were predominant (98% of delays for tuberculosis vaccination).

Conclusions. The increase in the number of children who are not properly vaccinated just after birth in connection with their parents' decision should be considered non-gradual, both for tuberculosis and hepatitis B. It is necessary to implement effective educational and informative measures directed to future parents to strengthen the attitudes of vaccine candidates and to dispel doubts among parents who are hesitant.