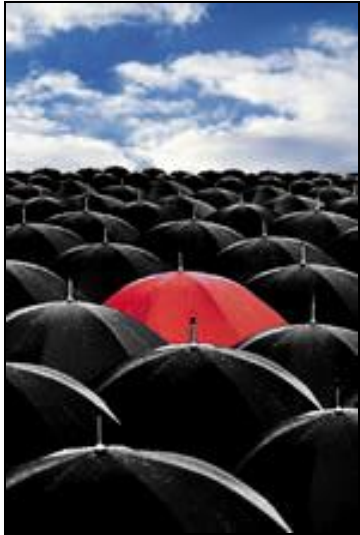


# Introduction to vaccine safety

## Understanding basic concepts



Professor Michael Gold

[michael.gold@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:michael.gold@adelaide.edu.au)

Department of Allergy and Immunology  
Women's and Children's Health Network

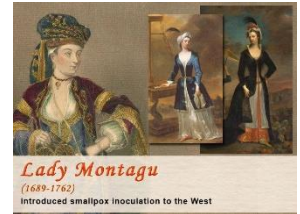
Discipline of Paediatrics  
Adelaide University  
AUSTRALIA

# Quiz 1

# The history of vaccination – improving safety

## Variolation

- Material from a patient with **Small Pox** to induce immunity to **Small Pox**
- Originated in China in the 15th century (India Africa)
  - “nasal insufflation” and scarification (attenuate the scabs)
  - **High mortality - 1 in 30**
- Observed by Lady Mary Wortley Montague, in Turkey, wife of the UK ambassador and introduced into the UK in 1721



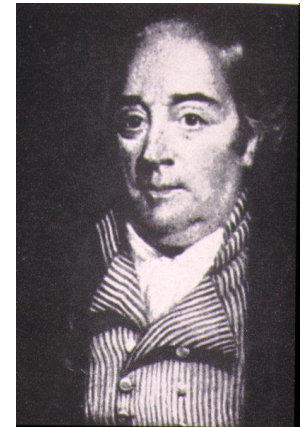
## Vaccination

- Material from a patient with **Cox Pox** to induce immunity to **Small Pox**
  - **Low mortality < 1 in 100**

**1774 first used by a farmer in Dorset called Benjamin Jesty**

1796 Introduced by Edward Jenner (published and “efficacy”)

1840 variolation banned in the UK





Sacred to the memory of  
Benjamin Jesty of Devonshire  
who  
died on April 16th 1816 aged 79  
years.

He was born at Westminster in  
his county an upright honest  
man

particularly noted for having  
been the **first person**  
**known that**

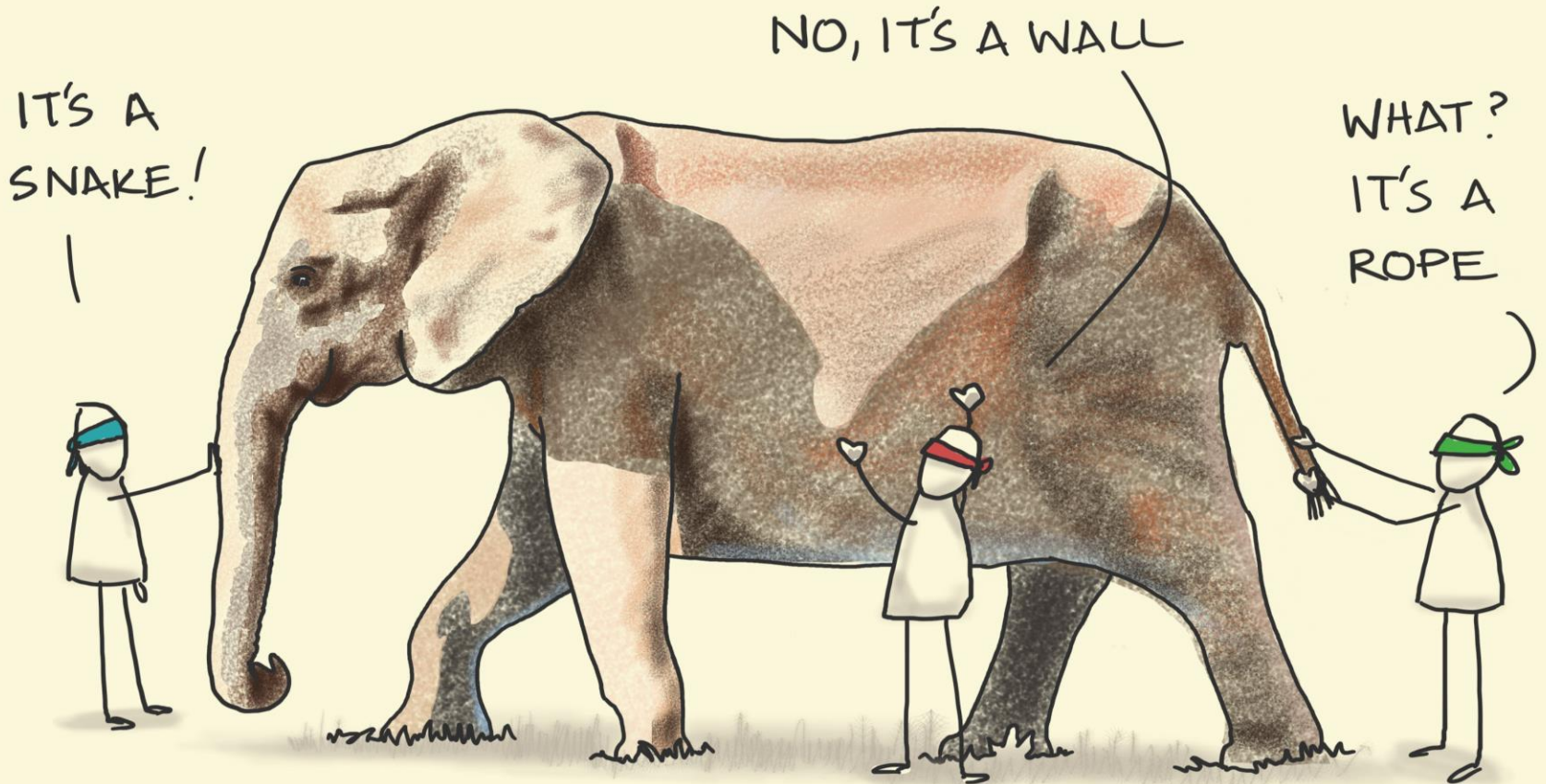
**introduced the cow pox by**  
**inoculation and who from his**  
**great strength of mind made**  
**the experiment from the cow**  
**pox on his wife and two sons**  
**in the year 1774**

# Outline

- Why is vaccine safety important ?
- How do you know that a vaccine is safe ?
- How do you know that a vaccine has caused a reaction?

# THE BLIND AND THE ELEPHANT

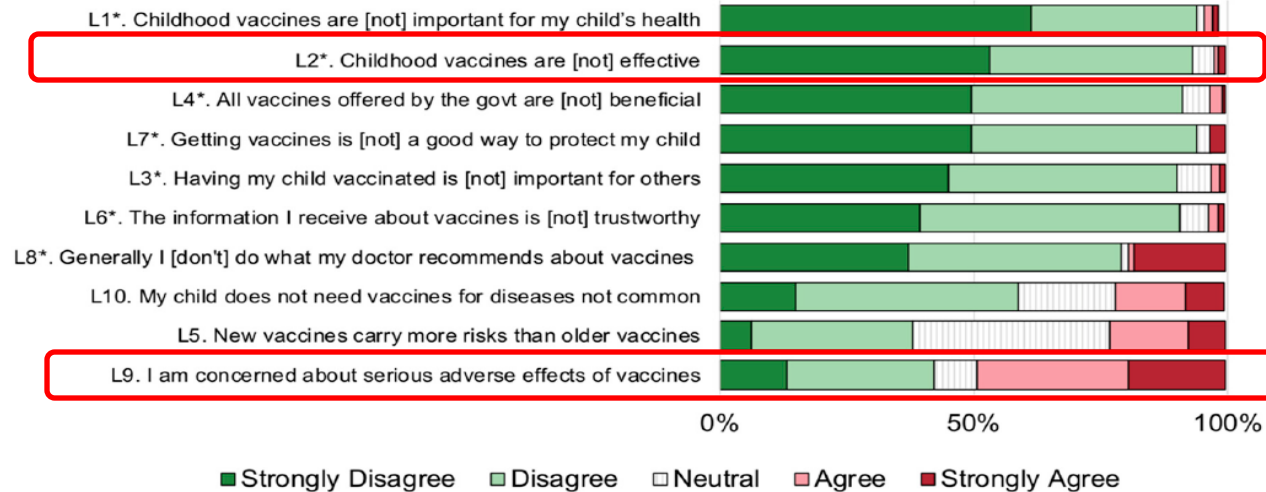
OUR OWN EXPERIENCE IS RARELY THE WHOLE TRUTH



# Community concerns are about vaccine safety rather than efficacy

## Comparisons of Vaccine Hesitancy across Five Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Vaccines 2019, 7, 155; doi:10.3390/vaccines7040155



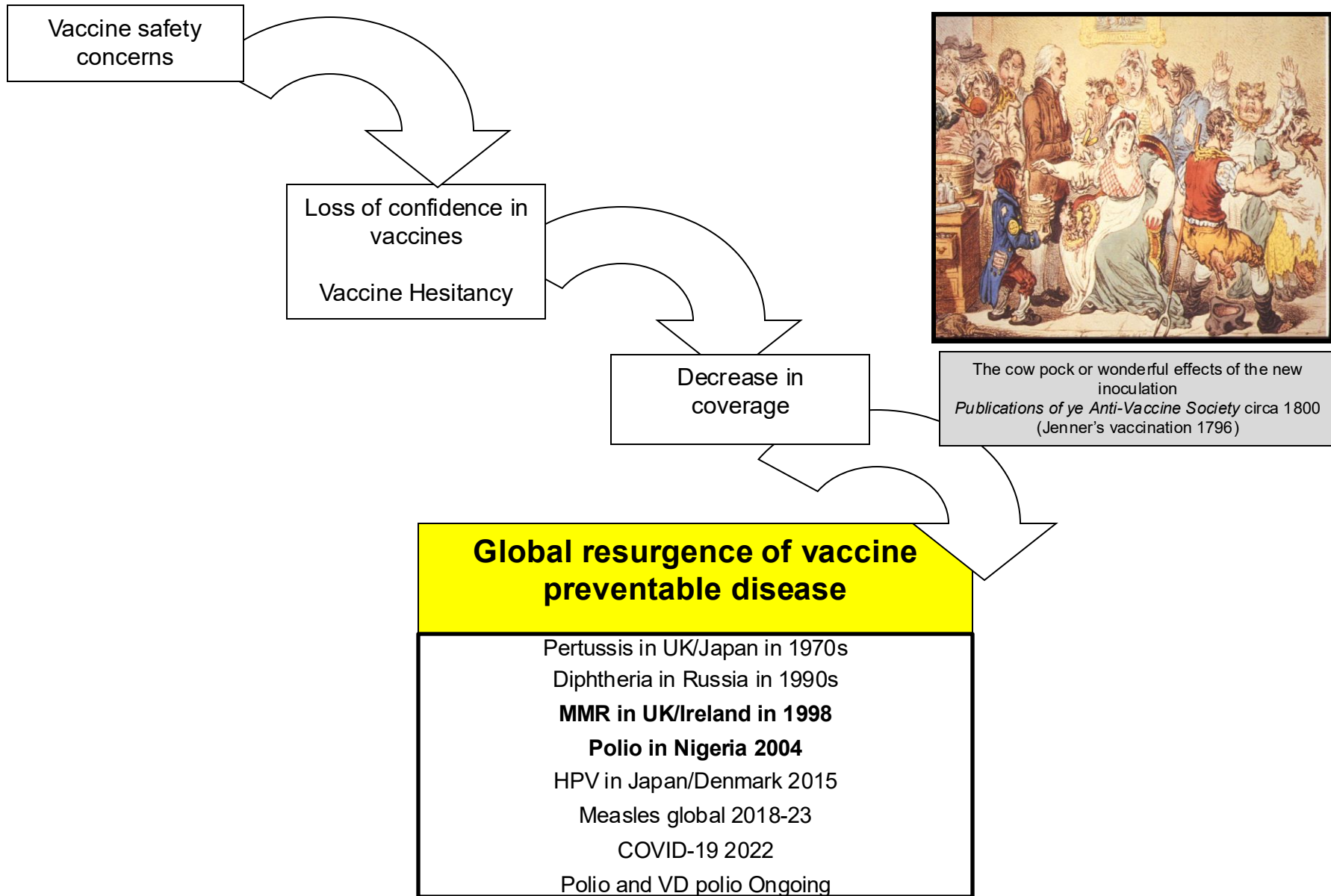
**Figure 1.** Overall patterns of vaccine hesitancy across the five surveyed Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), presented by question. Note, questions with a \* were reverse coded so that the scale was in the same direction for all questions, with higher scores (1–5, 5 representing 'Strongly Agree', corresponding to higher vaccine hesitancy scores).

# COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in South Africa: Lessons for Future Pandemics

Engelbrecht M et al. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2022, 19(11),6694; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19116694>

Variable	n	%	
Reasons for not being sure/not taking a COVID-19 vaccine (N = 25,816)	Concerns about side-effects	6732	26.1
	COVID-19 vaccines were developed and approved too rapidly to be trusted	3240	12.6
	Not trusting the government	3052	11.8
	Fear of needles	2728	10.6
	Prefer to acquire natural immunity	2656	10.3
	Don't think it will be effective	2008	7.8
	Against vaccines in general	1836	7.1
	Not at risk for COVID-19	1600	6.2
	COVID-19 vaccines are promoted for commercial gains of pharmaceutical companies	1176	4.6
	Don't have time to go for a vaccine	540	2.1
	Conspiracy theories—reduce the population/kill people	84	0.3
	Pregnant/breastfeeding	68	0.3
	Having co-morbidities	56	0.2
	Religious beliefs	40	0.1

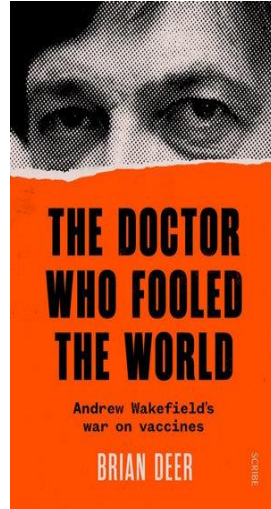
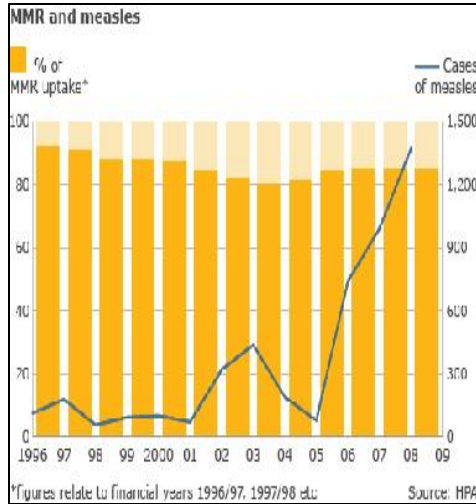
# Concerns about vaccine safety affect coverage



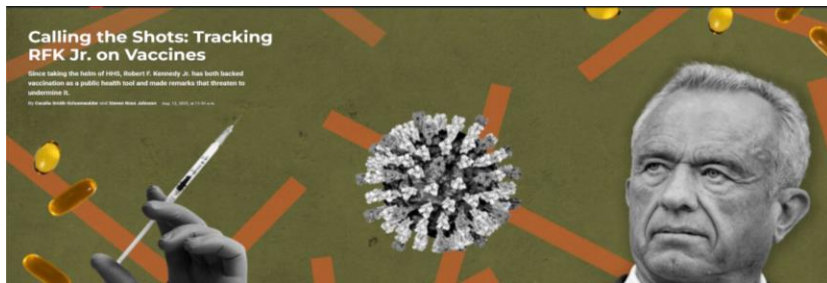


# Safety concerns may be about established vaccines

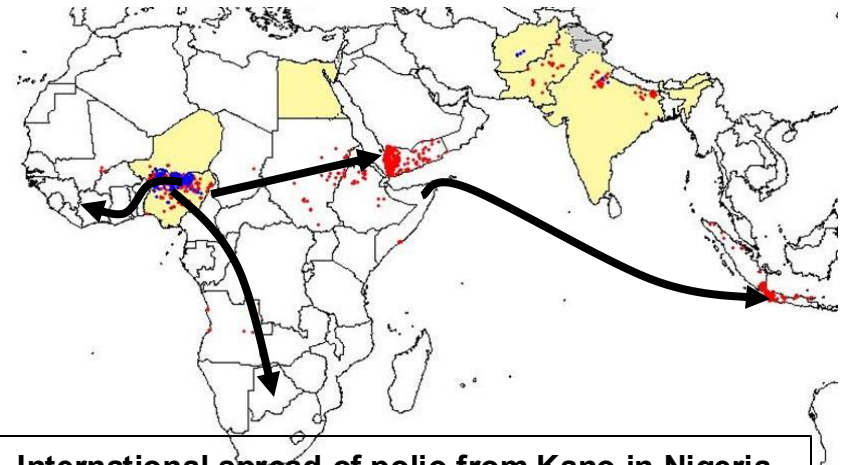
## Measles Mumps Rubella



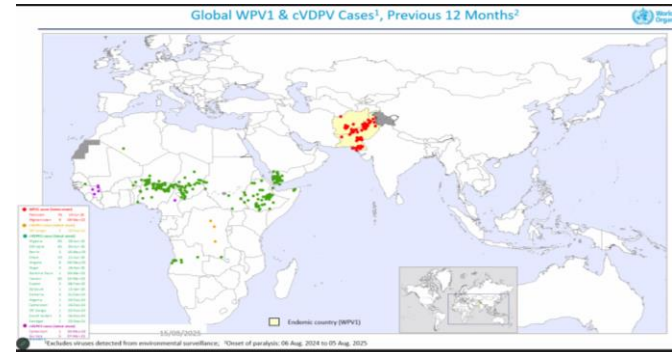
**Retraction--Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children. Lancet retraction. Lancet 2010 Feb 6;375(9713):445.**



## Polio



**International spread of polio from Kano in Nigeria to 10 countries in Africa and then to Middle East and Asia**  
Ivory coast Ghana Togo Benin Burkina Faso, Cameroon Central African Republic, Chad, Sudan, Botswana



# How do we know ..... is safe ?



# Safety inferred because of an absence of **adverse reactions**

**Reactions** are **adverse** effects that are caused or precipitated (triggered) by;

- **The vaccine (s)**  
What is in the vaccine



- **Immunisation**  
The process of administering the vaccine



# Adverse **events** versus **reactions**

## Surveillance vs Causality

- Many of the symptoms and signs of an **adverse vaccine or immunisation reaction** also occur in the absence of vaccination
- These events, unrelated to vaccination, are called background or coincidental events
- Surveillance is the detection of **adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)**, which are a combination of adverse vaccine reactions and background events
- **Causality assessment** of AEFI is used to differentiate an **adverse reaction** from a **background or co-incidental event**

**But ..... there are three unique generalised adverse vaccine reactions that only occur with **vaccination and have no background occurrence****

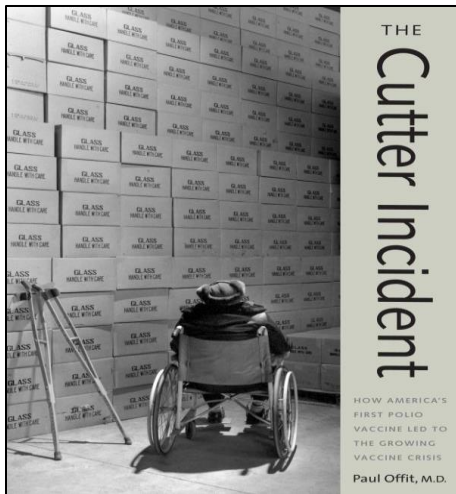
<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Yellow Fever	Viscerotropic/Neurotrophic Disease
Attenuated live vaccine disease	BCG            Disseminated BCG Measles        Vaccine encephalitis Polio (Oral)    Vaccine associated paralytic polio (VAPP) VZ                Disseminated Varicella-Zoster
COVID-19 viral vector	Vaccine Induced Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia (VITT)

# How do we know a vaccine is safe ?

- Inferred because of the absence of adverse reactions, which are due to the vaccine or process of immunisation
- Safety surveillance detects AEFI

How do we perform surveillance to detect AEFI and then differentiate adverse reactions from co-incidental events ?

# Regulatory framework for drug and vaccine safety evaluation, licensure and surveillance

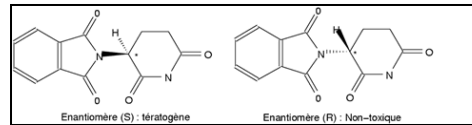


## April 1955, Cutter incident

- 200,00 children received partially inactivated vaccine
- 40,000 cases of polio
- 200 children paralysed
- 10 deaths

## Thalidomide

First introduced October 1, 1957 Withdrawn in 1961



**THALIDOMIDE AND CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES**

SIR,—Congenital abnormalities are present in approximately 1.5% of babies. In recent months I have observed that the incidence of multiple severe abnormalities in babies delivered of women who were given the drug thalidomide ('Distaval') during pregnancy, as an anti-emetic or as a sedative, to be almost 20%.

These abnormalities are present in structures developed from mesenchyme—i.e., the bones and musculature of the gut. Bony development seems to be affected in a very striking manner, resulting in polydactyly, syndactyly, and failure of development of long bones (abnormally short femora and radii).

Have any of your readers seen similar abnormalities in babies delivered of women who have taken this drug during pregnancy?

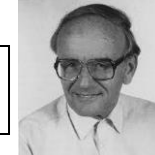
Hurstville, New South Wales.  
W. G. McBRIDE.

\*\*\* In our issue of Dec. 2 we included a statement from the Distillers Company (Biochemicals) Ltd. referring to "reports from two overseas sources possibly associating thalidomide ('Distaval') with harmful effects on the fetus in early pregnancy". Pending further investigation, the company decided to withdraw from the market all its preparations containing thalidomide.—Ed.L.

**McBride WG.** *Thalidomide and congenital abnormalities. Lancet 2:1358. Dec 16 1961*

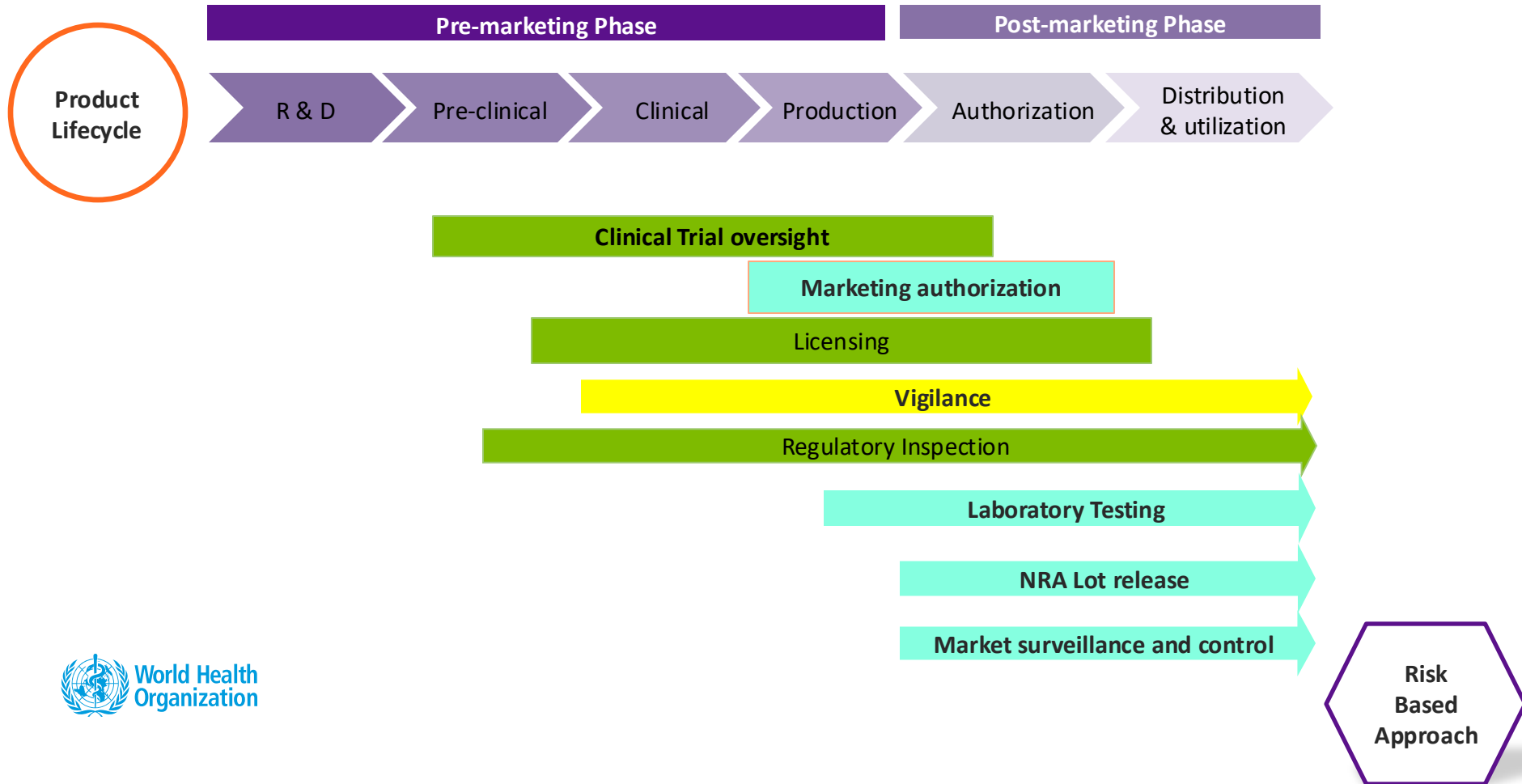


**Widukind Lenz.** *Nov 15 1961*  
*Withdrawn by manufacturer Nov 26 1961- 1,600 reports*



# WHO Recommended Regulatory Functions Based on Product Lifecycle

## National Regulatory System



# Pre-marketing phase and vaccine safety

	Sample size	Adverse Reactions	
		Common	Rare
<b>Animal trials</b>		+/-	-
<b>Clinical trials</b>			
Phase I	10-100	+/-	-
Phase II	100-1,000	+	-
Phase III	1,000-10,000	+	-

- **Does not detect adverse reactions which are:**
  - rare, delayed, unexpected
  - occur in sub-populations
  - with vaccine combinations

At the time of vaccine licensure safety data is incomplete

# Post-marketing Phase Vaccine Pharmacovigilance



Vaccine pharmacovigilance\* the science and activities relating to the **detection, assessment, understanding and communication of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)** and other vaccine- or immunization-related issues, and to the prevention of untoward effects of the vaccine or immunization.

# The differences between **vaccine and drug** pharmacovigilance and safety

## **Vaccines**

- Prevention in healthy, larger population
  - Lower risk tolerance
- Limited number of products
- With single dose, greater potential for temporal “coincidence”

## **Drugs**

- Treatment in ill, smaller population
  - More tolerant of risk
- Large number of products, many classes
- Treatment over time: less “coincidence” after a single dose

## Vaccines

- Mass campaigns: many doses in short time, defined population
- Politics of access/safety
  - Collaboration between public health/NIP, NRA and manufacturers

## Drugs

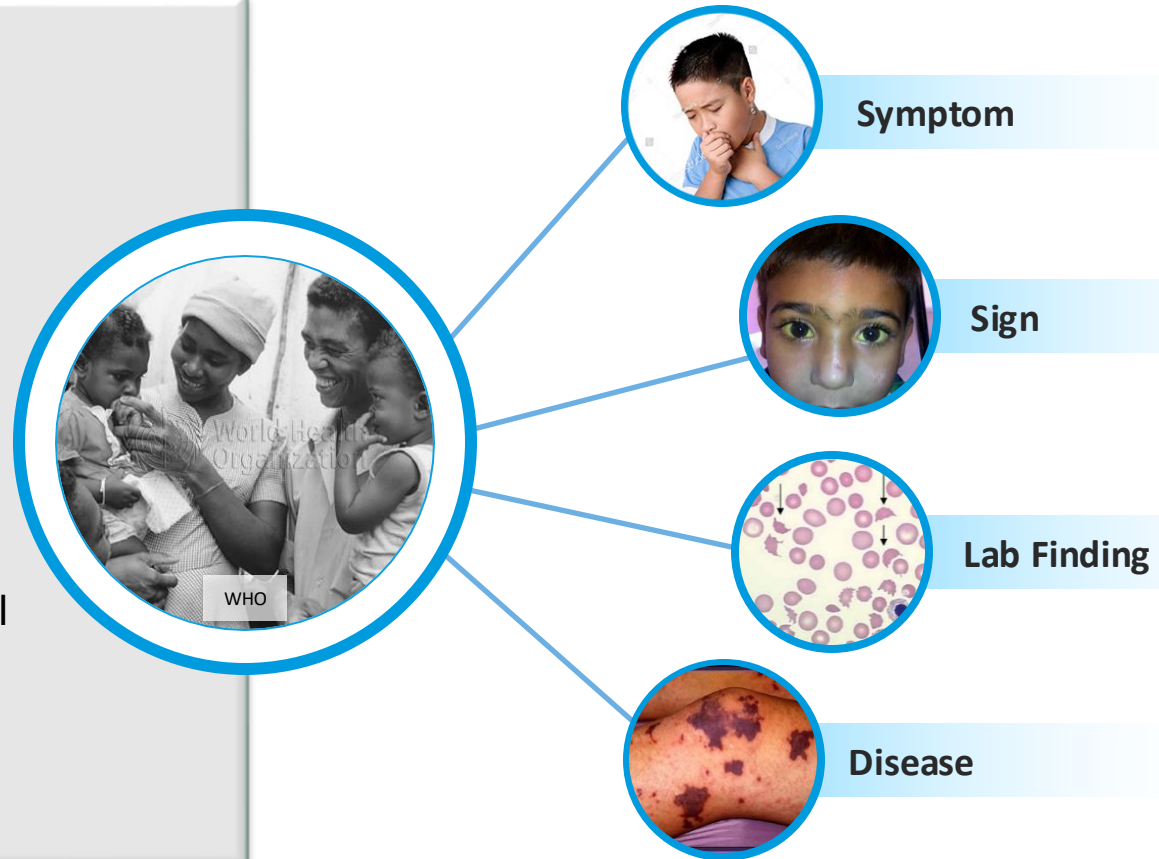
- No mass campaigns – “private” prescribing to less defined population
- Politics of access/safety
  - Less relationship between health system/govt/NRA and manufacturers

Vaccines demand higher safety and more careful quality standards and monitoring.

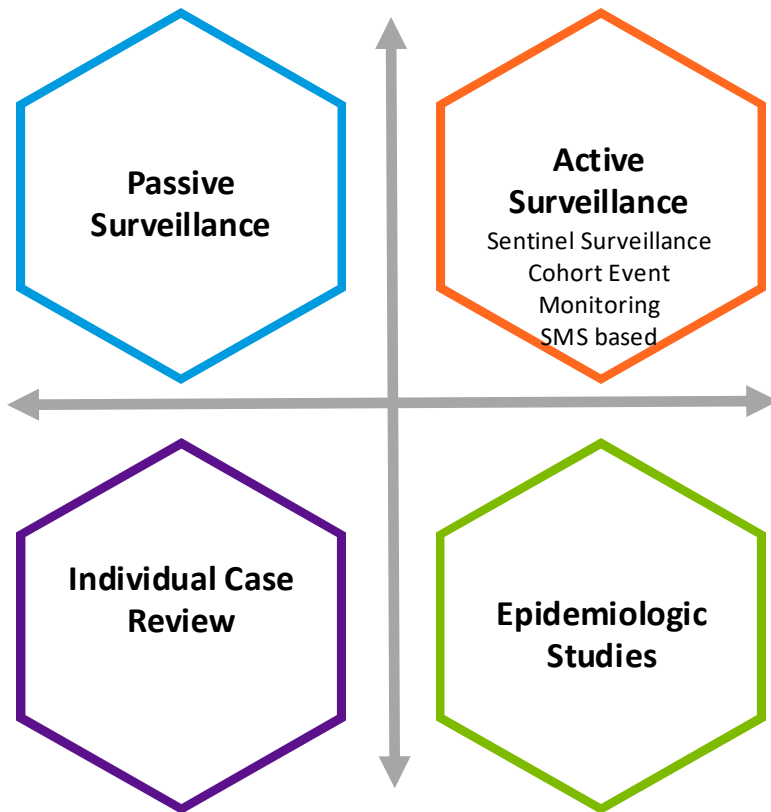
# Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI)

...any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunization and **which does not necessarily have a causal relationship** with the usage of the vaccine.

The adverse event may be any unfavorable or unintended sign, abnormal laboratory finding, symptom or disease.



# How is post-marketing surveillance undertaken?



**Passive (spontaneous)**  
reporting by health  
providers, consumers,  
manufacturers of

**Adverse Events Following  
Immunization (AEFI)**

# AEFI Surveillance Cycle

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1.



**Monitoring vaccine safety:** Ensure that national immunization programmes can detect and respond to any concern about vaccine safety by continuous monitoring and coordination among relevant stakeholders.

# Why do we do post-licensure AEFI surveillance ?

01

To monitor the rates of **known adverse vaccine reactions** and compare the **observed** with the **expected** rates



World Health Organization

Global Vaccine safety  
Essential Medicines & Health Products  
20, Avenue Appia, Ch- 1211 Geneva 27

**INFORMATION SHEET**  
**OBSERVED RATE OF VACCINE REACTIONS**  
**HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS VACCINE**  
December 2017

13 May 2020  
**Anthrax information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 May 2020  
**Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 May 2020  
**Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus Vaccines information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 June 2012  
**Hepatitis A Vaccine Information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 June 2012  
**Hepatitis B Vaccine Information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 April 2012  
**Hib information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 December 2017  
**HPV Vaccine information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 July 2012  
**Influenza Vaccine Information sheet**

[Read More](#)

13 January 2016  
**Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine Information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 May 2014  
**MMR Vaccine information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 June 2012  
**Pneumococcal Vaccine information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 May 2014  
**Polio Vaccine information sheet**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

13 June 2012  
**Rabies Vaccine Information sheet**

13 June 2018  
**Rotavirus Vaccine Information sheet**

13 April 2014  
**Typhoid Vaccine information sheet**

13 June 2012  
**Varicella Zoster Virus Vaccine information sheet**

# To detect a vaccine safety signal

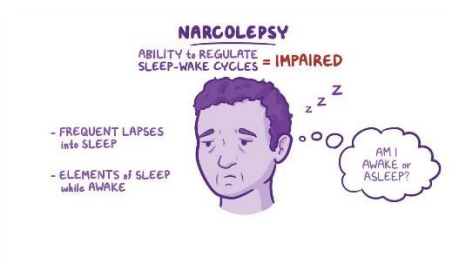
An adverse vaccine reaction which is **unknown** at the time of licensure.

A safety signal is a cluster of AEFIs that may require further investigation to determine if this is a newly described adverse reaction or a co-incidental event

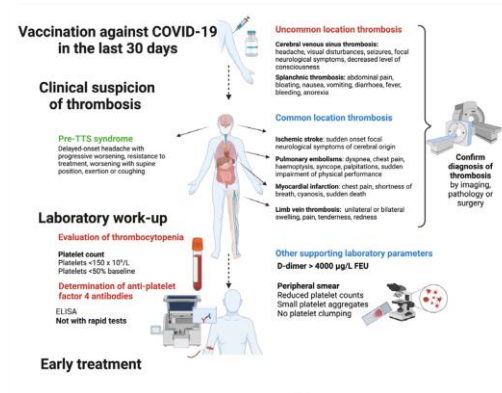
02



Intussusception and Rotaviral vaccine



Narcolepsy and adjuvanted pH1N1 influenza vaccines



Viral vector COVID-19 vaccine and VITT

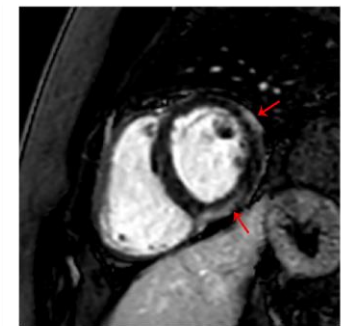


Fig. 2. Short axis late gadolinium enhancement image. Mid-myocardial enhancement of the middle inferolateral and anterolateral wall consistent with myopericarditis. (Red arrows point to LGE). (For interpretation of the references to

mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and myopericarditis

# To detect immunization errors

## Vaccine handling 14 deaths following Measles vaccine

Age (approximate)	Sex	Time of vaccination (approximate)	Time of onset of symptoms	Symptoms presented (from primary informant)	Time of deaths
> 5 years	M	Morning	Shortly after	Fever, ask for water, Vomiting, No diarrhoea	Early afternoon around 2 PM
1-5 years	F	Morning	Shortly after	High fever, Very tired, vomiting, no talking, No diarrhoea	Early afternoon
2-3 years	M	Morning	Around mid-day	Fall very tired, vomiting, sleepy, passed urine, No diarrhoea	Late afternoon around 6 PM
>5 years	M	Morning	Shortly after	Very high fever, big swelling at the site of injection (still visible), fainted and rolled her eyes up	Survived
>5 years	M	Morning	Shortly after	Red eyes, tired, Diarrhoea and vomiting, complaint of headache and pain in the chest	Mid-afternoon
6 years	F	Morning	Shortly after	Pain at site of vaccination, then diarrhoea not vomiting, big swelling on site of injection extending to the arm up to the neck, frothing and convulsion (rolling eyes up)	Mid-afternoon
>5 years	F	Morning	Very shortly after	Headache, fever, convulsion and comatose	Mid-day
>5 years	M	Morning	Shortly after	Weakness, unable to walk, fever and fits and died	Mid-day
>5 years	F	Morning	Shortly after	Fever, fits, saliva in mouth, loss of consciousness and dead	Mid-day
2 years	M	Morning	Shortly after	Vomiting, diarrhoea, fever	7 PM
1-5 years	F	Morning	Mid-day	Vomiting, diarrhoea, fever	7 PM
8 years	M	Morning	Mid-day	Vomiting, diarrhoea, fever	Evening (8PM)
8-9 years	M	10 AM?	Early afternoon	Vomiting diarrhoea, fever	Late evening
2 years	M	Morning	Mid-afternoon	Vomiting Diarrhoea	No known
8 years	M	Morning	Mid-day	Fever vomiting, diarrhoea	Mid-afternoon
1 years	F	Morning	Mid-day	Fever, vomiting, Diarrhoea	3 PM? Mid-afternoon



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



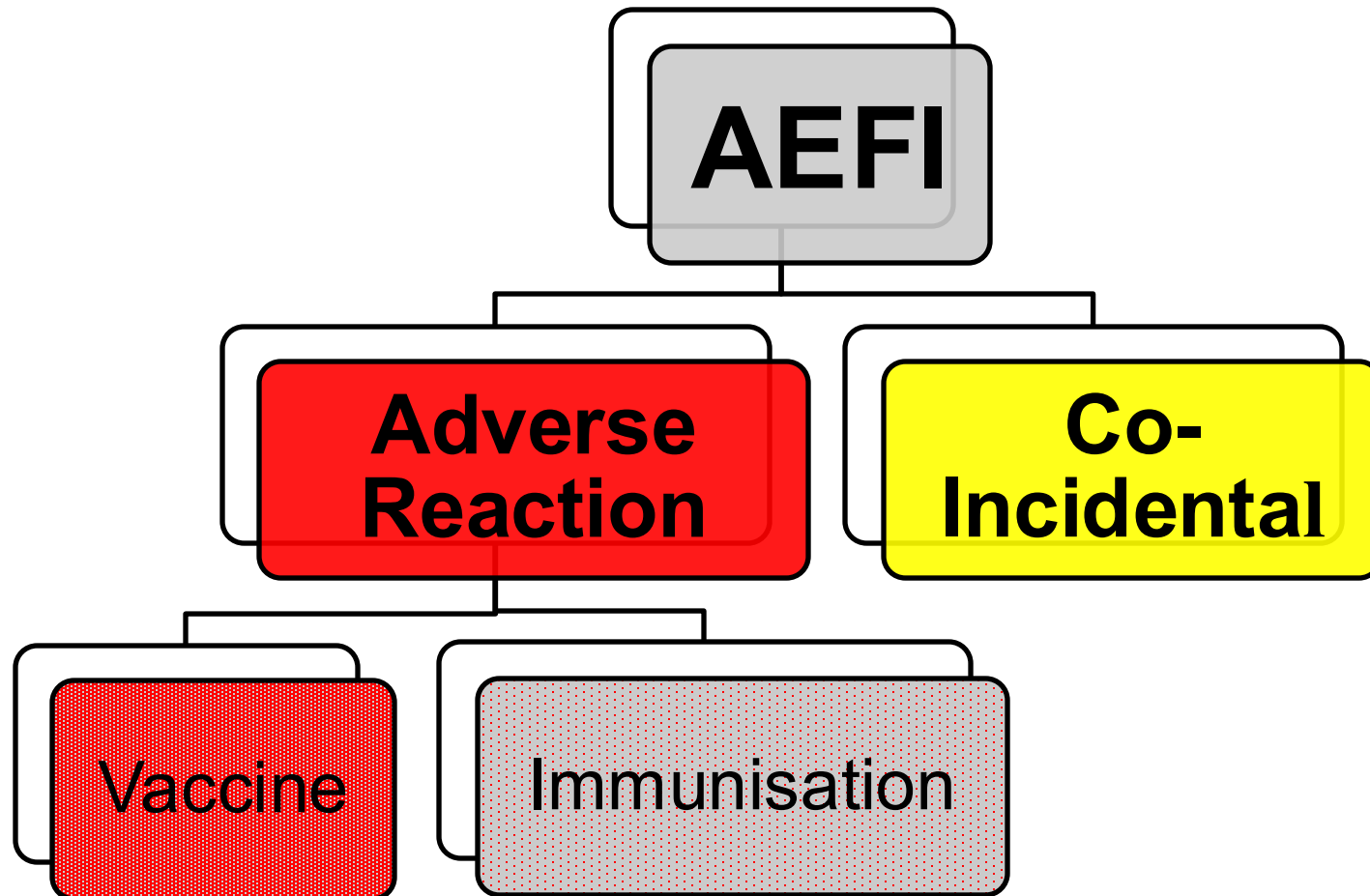
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

### PRESS RELEASE ON DEATH OF TWO CHILDREN FOLLOWING MEASLES IMMUNIZATION IN KERIO VALLEY, MARAKWET EAST SUB COUNTY, ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

The Ministry of Health wishes to shed light on the incidence of death following measles immunization of two children in Kotut village of Endo Ward near Kapetwa Health Centre, Kerio Valley, Marakwet East Sub-county in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The incidence occurred during routine outreach health services targeting the local population at Kotut Village by staff from Kapetwa Health Centre.



# How do you differentiate an adverse reaction from a co-incidental event ?



# Causality and causality assessment

CAUSE

EFFECT

## Causality\*

Is the relationship between two events (the cause and the effect), where the second event is a consequence of the first

## Causality Assessment

Determining if such a relationship exists and if so to what extent

**\*A direct cause is a factor in absence of which the effect would not occur**

**\*Sometimes, there are multiple factors that can precipitate or function as co-factors for the effect (event) to occur.**

# How do we know that a vaccine has caused a reaction ?

## Population (Can it ?)

Does vaccination increase the risk of occurrence of the event in the community?

## Individual (Did it?)

Was the vaccine a factor in the individual developing the event?

Reference: \*Causality assessment of an AEFI: User manual for the revised WHO classification (2nd edition),

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/259959/9789241513654-eng.pdf;jsessionid=8C9A85696A36FD04B549A6DCDE268075?sequence=1>

# Population (Can it ?)

Passive surveillance does not establish causality

		Illness/Syndrome	
		yes	no
Vaccination	yes		
	no		

**Except for .....**

## **Unique vaccine reactions**

Viscerotropic disease post –Yellow fever vaccine

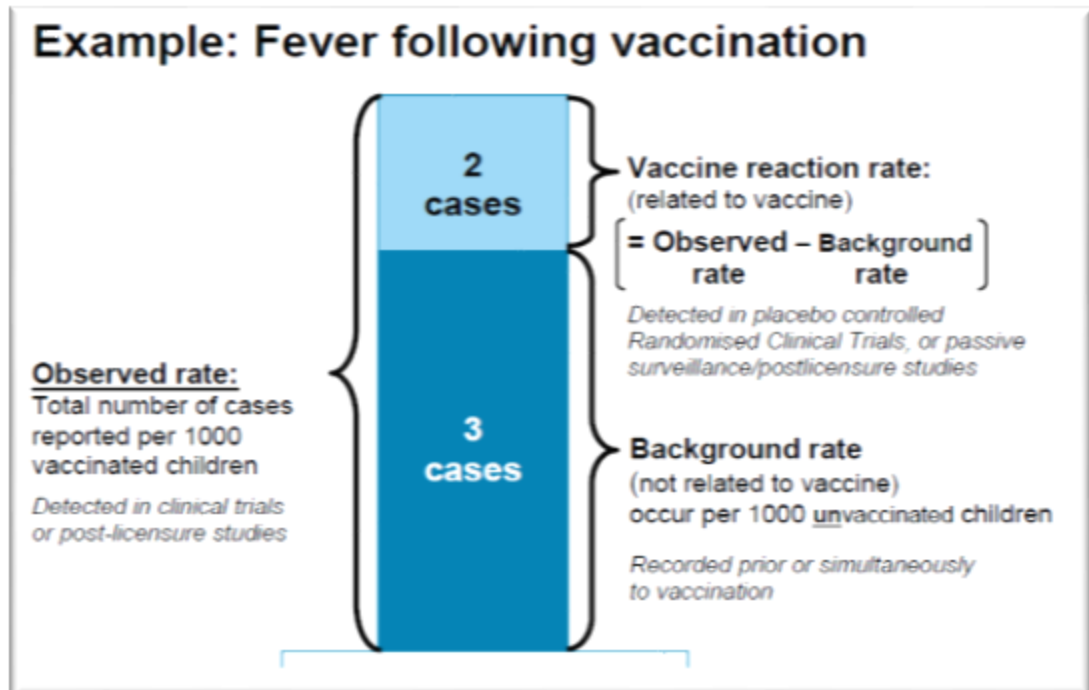
Attenuated vaccine disseminated disease- MMR/BCG/Zoster/Varicella/VAPP

Vaccine Induced Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) –VV COVID-19

# Population (Can it ?)

## Background rates to establish causality

		Illness/Syndrome	
		yes	no
Vaccination	yes		
	no		



# Population (Can it ?)

## Epidemiological studies to establish causality

		Illness/Syndrome	
		yes	no
Vaccination	yes		
	no		

Randomised Placebo Controlled Trials

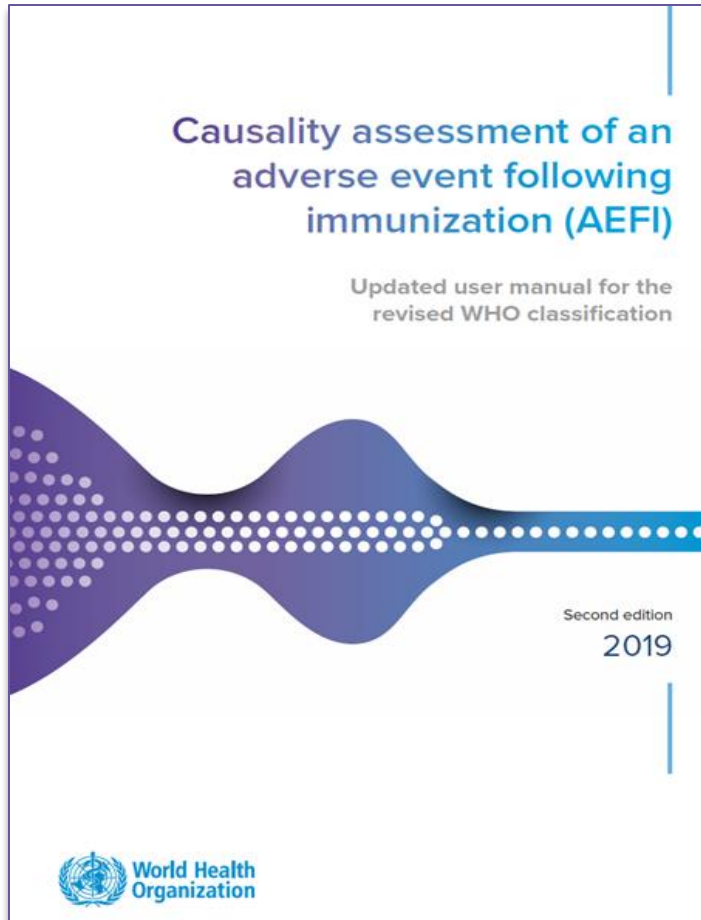
Observational studies

- Cohort
- Case-control

Self controlled case series  
(only requires vaccinated cases)

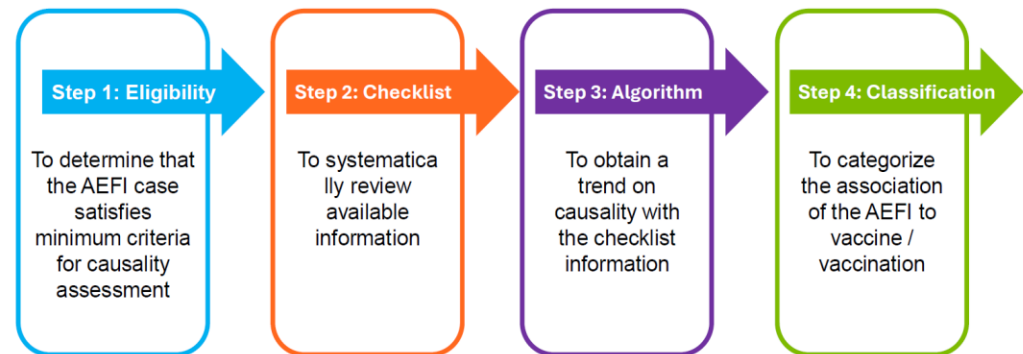
Needed for previously unrecognized reactions

# Individual (Did it?) Causality assessment



<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/340802>  
<https://gvs-i-aefi-tools.org/>

## Four steps to classification



# Final causal assessment classification of AEFI

Adequate  
information  
available

## A. Consistent causal association to immunization

A1. Vaccine product-related reaction  
(As per published literature)

A2. Vaccine quality defect-related reaction

A3. Immunization error related reaction

A4. Immunization stress related response (ISRR)

## B. Indeterminate

B1. \*Temporal relationship is consistent but there is insufficient definitive evidence for vaccine causing event (may be new vaccine-linked event)

B2. Qualifying factors result in conflicting trends of consistency and inconsistency with causal association to immunization

## C. Inconsistent causal association to immunization

C. Coincidental Underlying or emerging condition(s), or condition(s) caused by exposure to something other than vaccine

## Unclassifiable

Specify the additional information required for classification

Adequate  
information  
not available

# Conclusion

- Concerns about vaccine safety affect vaccine coverage
- Safety is inferred because of the absence of a vaccine or immunisation reaction
- Pre and post-licensure surveillance of Adverse Event Following Immunisation is the basis of pharmacovigilance
- Causality assessment can be performed at a population or individual level to differentiate a reaction(s) from co-incidental event(s)
- AEFI can be classified further into adverse vaccine or immunisation reactions or co-incidental events



## Outline

- How do vaccines or immunisation cause reactions?
- Why do some individuals have a reaction?
- What is the clinical approach to management of an AEFI?

**Vaccine related**

**Immunization process related**

**Unrelated to vaccine**

**1**

**Vaccine product-related reaction**

An AEFI that is caused or precipitated by a vaccine due to one or more of the inherent properties of the vaccine product.

**2**

**Vaccine quality defect-related reaction**

An AEFI that is caused or precipitated by a vaccine that is due to one or more quality defects of the vaccine product including its administration device as provided by the manufacturer.

**3**

**Immunization error-related reaction**

An AEFI that is caused by inappropriate vaccine handling, prescribing or administration.

**4**

**Immunization stress related response**

An AEFI arising from stress about the immunization.

**5**

**Coincidental event**

An AEFI that is caused by something other than the vaccine product, immunization error or immunization stress/anxiety

# Quiz 2

# Vaccine Product Related Reaction

An AEFI that is caused or precipitated by a vaccine due to one or more of the **inherent properties** of the vaccine product

- Known vaccine reaction
- Due to vaccine antigen/adjuvant/excipient/residual substance (s)

Mild reaction Side effect/reactogenicity	Moderate or severe reaction	
Common > 1% and < 10%	Rare >0.01% and < 0.1%	Very rare < 0.001% and <0.0001
Expected	Unexpected	
Examples		
Fever Injection Site Reactions Rash	Febrile convulsion BCG adenitis Extensive limb swelling Urticaria/Angioedema	Thrombocytopenia Hypotonic Hyporesponsive Episodes (HHE) Anaphylaxis

# Adverse vaccine product reactions

[http://www.who.int/vaccine\\_safety/initiative/tools/vaccin\\_fosheets/en/](http://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/initiative/tools/vaccin_fosheets/en/)



## REVIEW ARTICLE

### Comparison between the safety of the HPV vaccine versus placebo: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials

Swelen Aparecida dos Santos  <sup>a,b,c,#</sup>, Mariane Yoshie Sato  <sup>a,b,#</sup>

This PDF is available from The National Academies Press at [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=13164](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13164)



### Adverse Effects of Vaccines: Evidence and Causality



ISBN  
978-0-309-21435-3  
800 pages  
6 x 9  
HARDBACK (2011)

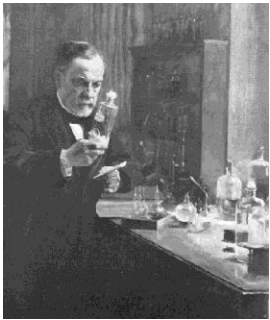
Kathleen Stratton, Andrew Ford, Erin Rusch, and Ellen Wright Clayton,  
Editors; Committee to Review Adverse Effects of Vaccines; Institute of  
Medicine

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/research/iomreports/index.html>



<https://www.tga.gov.au/products/australian-register-therapeutic-goods-artg/product-information-pi>

# Vaccine Quality Defect-related Reaction



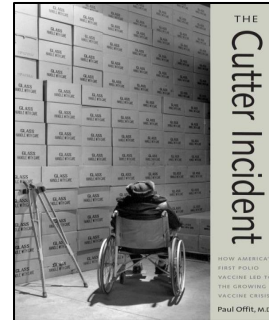
1800  
**Rabies**  
1 in 230  
seizures,  
paralysis coma



1930  
**BCG**  
Lubeck  
252 vaccinated  
72 died



1942  
**YF vaccine**  
Hep B, 330,000  
infected, 50,000  
hepatitis,  
62 died



1955  
**IPV**  
Cutter  
120,000 injected  
40,000 mild  
polio  
200 paralysed  
10 died



2010  
**Fluvax**  
Australia  
Hyperpyrexia  
Febrile  
seizures 1 in  
200

Outrage in China over thousands of faulty vaccines for children



2018  
China  
Changchun  
Changsheng  
DTaP and Rabies  
vaccine  
Efficacy not safety

An AEFI that is caused or precipitated by a vaccine that is due to one or more **quality defects** of the **vaccine product** including its **administration device** as provided by the manufacturer.

# Immunization Error-Related Reaction

An AEFI that is caused by inappropriate vaccine handling, prescribing or administration.

Immunization error Related reaction	
<b>Error in vaccine handling:</b>	Systemic or local reactions due to changes in the physical nature of the vaccine such as agglutination of aluminium-based excipients in freeze-sensitive vaccines.  Failure to protect as a result of loss of potency or non-viability of an attenuated product.
<b>Error in vaccine prescribing or non-adherence to recommendations for use</b>	Anaphylaxis, Disseminated infection with an attenuated live, VAPP  Systemic and/or local reactions, Neurologic, muscular, vascular or bony injury due to incorrect injection site, equipment or technique
<b>Error in administration</b>	Failure to vaccinate due to incorrect diluent , Reaction due to the inherent properties of whatever was administered other than the intended vaccine or diluent.  Infection at the site of injection/ beyond the site of injection

Vaccine handling



Error prescribing




Error administration



## BRIEF REPORTS

### Toxic Shock Syndrome: An unforeseen Complication Following Measles Vaccination

M.A. Phadke

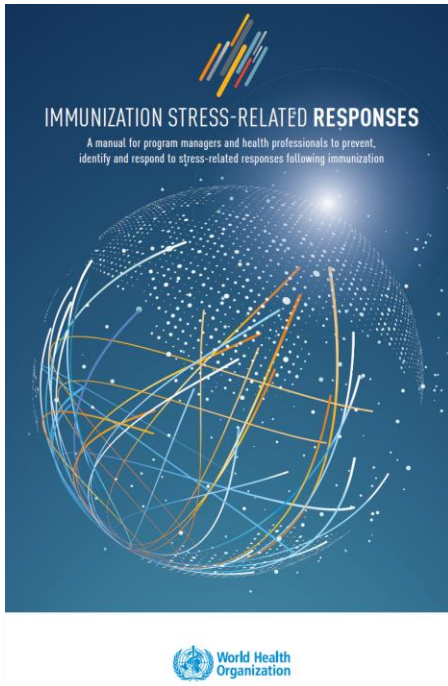
REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
  
 MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
 PRESS RELEASE ON DEATH OF TWO CHILDREN FOLLOWING MEASLES IMMUNIZATION IN KERIO VALLEY, MARAKWET EAST SUB COUNTY, ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY  
 The Ministry of Health wishes to shed light on the incidence of death following measles immunization of two children in Kotut village of Endo Ward near Kapetwa Health Centre, Kerio Valley, Marakwet East Sub-county in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The incidence occurred during routine outreach health services targeting the local population at Kotut Village by staff from Kapetwa Health Centre.



Vaccine/ Diluent	Mechanism
Diluent (M or MR)	Pancuronium Insulin

# Immunization Stress Related Responses (ISRR)

Responses to the pain and stress of the **process of immunisation** not caused by the **vaccine product**



## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Mass psychogenic response to human papillomavirus vaccination

Jim P Buttery, Simon Madin, Nigel W Crawford, Sonja Elia, Sophie La Vincente, Sarah Hanieh, Lindsay Smith and Bruce Bolam

## Policy and Practice

### Mass psychogenic illness following tetanus-diphtheria toxoid vaccination in Jordan

Saad Kharabsheh,<sup>1</sup> Haidar Al-Otoum,<sup>2</sup> John Clements,<sup>3</sup> Adnan Abbas,<sup>4</sup> Najwa Khuri-Bulos,<sup>5</sup> Adel Belbesi,<sup>6</sup> Taky Gaafar,<sup>7</sup> & Nora Dellepiane<sup>8</sup>



2019

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241515948>

# Immunization Stress Related Responses Manifestations

## Skin

- Skin flushing (adolescent and young females, infants)

## Respiratory

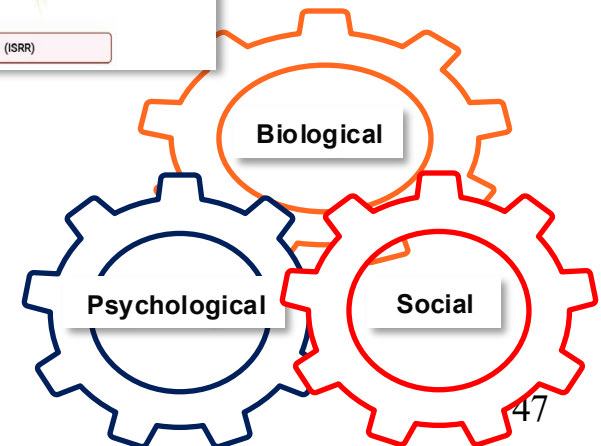
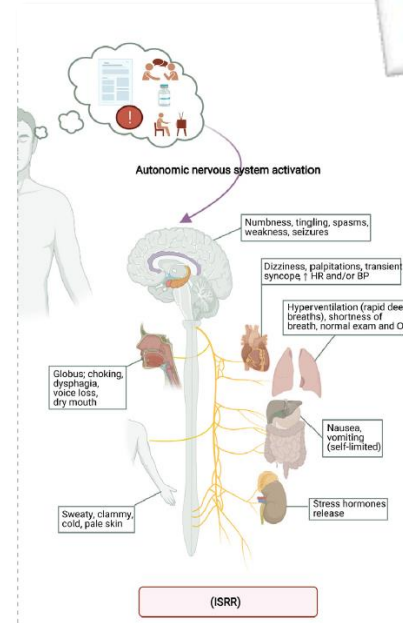
- Acute breath holding (Infants)
- Acute Stress Response
- Hyperventilation syndrome
- Vocal Cord Dysfunction / Inducible Laryngeal Obstruction

## Cardiovascular

- Vasovagal syncope

## Neurological

- Dissociative Neurological Reaction (Conversion syndromes/Functional Disorders)
  - Includes Non-Epileptic seizures
- Hypotonic Hyporesponsive Episodes (HHE) – infants immediate



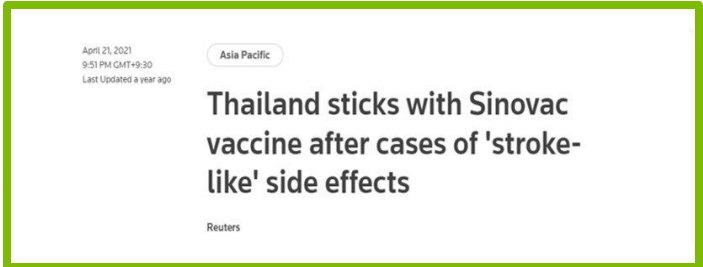
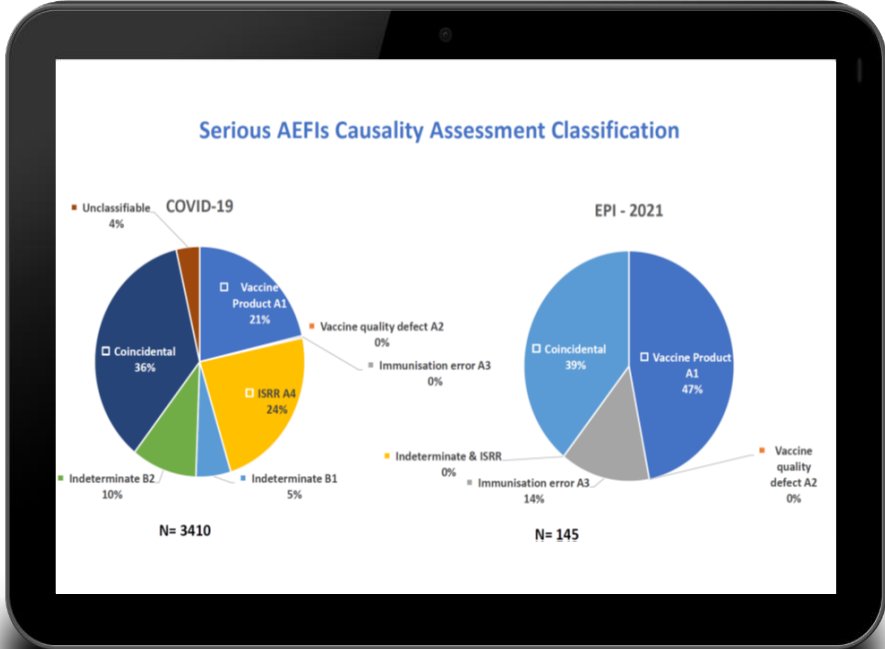
# Differential diagnosis and ISRR – CNS ALLERGY

Table 4.2: Clues to the diagnosis of a conversion reaction [adapted from Evens, Vendetta et al. 2015<sup>47</sup>]

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disappearance of symptoms or signs when patient distracted</li> <li>• Signs or symptoms which are not consistent with known disorders</li> <li>• Symptoms or signs may not respond to pharmacological interventions (for example, no response to a bronchodilator which could be given for shortness of breath due to bronchospasm)</li> <li>• Symptoms and signs maybe intermittent and vary between presentations.</li> </ul>
Dystonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistent sustained movements over time</li> <li>• Unusual postures</li> </ul>
Gait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluctuation of gait and stance</li> <li>• Normal limb power and sensation lying down but inability to stand and walk</li> <li>• Sudden buckling of knees without falls</li> </ul>
Myoclonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing pattern of frequency, amplitude and anatomical distribution</li> </ul>
Sensory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of sensory function which is not anatomically consistent with any known sensory disorders.</li> </ul>

	Acute Stress Response		Anaphylaxis
	General	Vasovagal Syncope	
Onset	Before, During After <5min	Before, During, After <5min (less if pt. moves)	After >5min (usually < 60min)
Skin	Pale, Sweaty, Cold, Clammy	Pale, Sweaty, Cold, Clammy	Red itchy skin & eyes
Respiratory	Hyperventilation	Normal or Deep Breaths	Cough, Wheeze, Stridor
Cardio	Increased HR Normal or Elevated BP	Decreased HR +/- Transient Decreased BP	Increased HR Decreased BP
GI	Nausea	Nausea, Vomiting	Nausea, Vomiting, Abdominal Cramps
Neuro / Other	Fear, Dizzy, Numb, Weak, Tingling lips, Spasm in hands and feet	Transient LOC, respond well once supine, rarely +/- tonic- clonic seizure	Unease, restless, agitated, LOC, little response to lying supine

# Post marketing surveillance for COVID-19 vaccines and ISRR



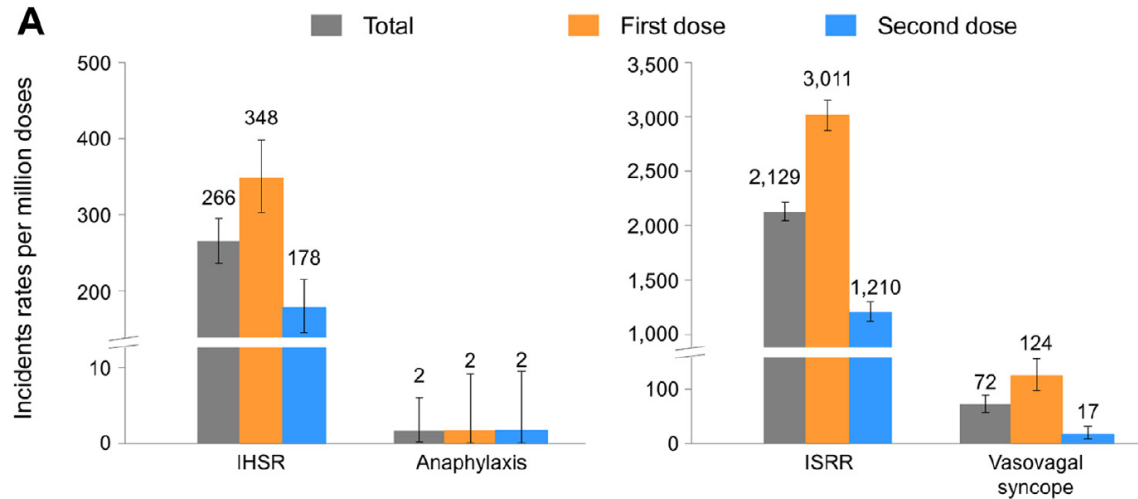
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Good recovery of immunization stress-related responses presenting as a cluster of stroke-like events following CoronaVac and ChAdOx1 vaccinations

# Incidence and Risk Factors of Immediate Hypersensitivity Reactions and Immunization Stress-Related Responses With COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine

Moderna vaccine 614,151 recipients, 1,202,688 vaccine doses

Risk factors case control methodology



Odds ratios for each risk factor.

Risk factor	Answer	Univariate analysis of risk factors <sup>a</sup>		
		OR	95% CI	P-value
Administration	First dose	Ref.		
	Second dose	0.872	0.636 , 1.197	0.397
Sex	Male	Ref.		
	Female	1.256	0.874 , 1.805	0.218
Age	per 1 year	0.996	0.984 , 1.009	0.549
Any allergies	No	Ref.		
	Yes	1.594	1.137 , 2.235	<b>0.007</b>
Epilepsy or taking any antiepileptic drugs	No	Ref.		
	Yes	1.201	0.221 , 6.524	0.832
Anxiety	I did not feel anxious	Ref.		
	I felt a little anxious	1.279	0.890 , 1.839	0.183
	I had a very strong anxious feeling	2.317	1.303 , 4.120	<b>0.004</b>

Imai K et al. Incidence and Risk Factors of Immediate Hypersensitivity Reactions and Immunization Stress-Related Responses With COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2022 Oct;10(10):2667-2676

Takano T et al. Investigation of the incidence of immunisation stress-related response following COVID-19 vaccination in healthcare workers. *J Infect Chemother.* 2022 Jun;28(6):735-740.

# Co-incident event

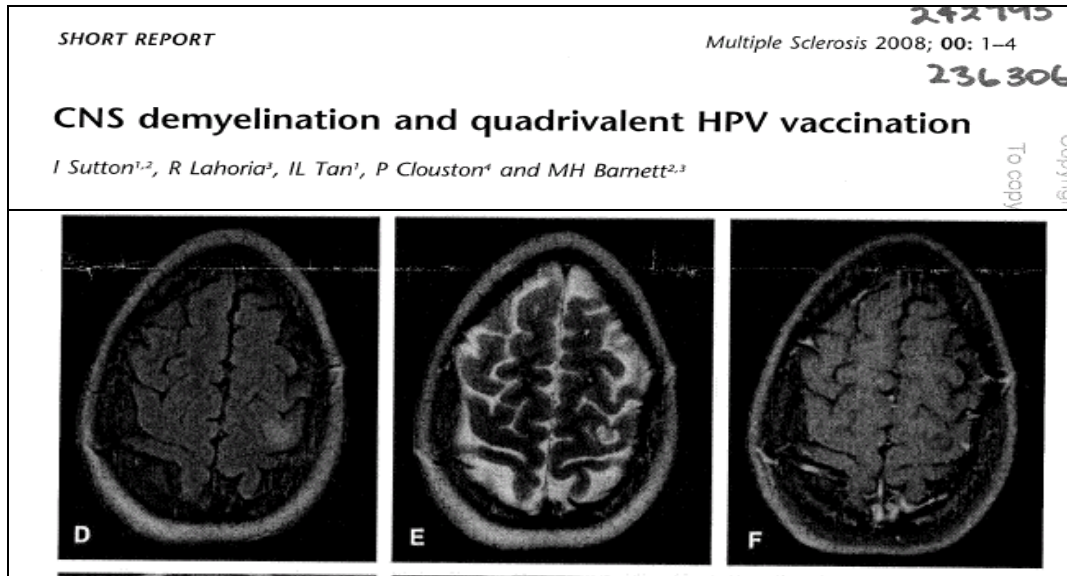
An AEFI that is caused by something other than the vaccine product, programme error or injection reaction

**TABLE 5. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF COINCIDENTAL INFANT DEATHS THAT COULD BE TEMPORALLY LINKED TO IMMUNIZATION (E.G. WITH DPT/PVV) IN THE MONTH, WEEK AND DAY AFTER IMMUNIZATION IN SELECTED COUNTRIES**

Country	Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births (IMR)	Number of births per year (N)	Estimated number of infant deaths in			Estimated number of PVV/DTP immunizations* in		
			a month	a week	a day	a month	a week	a day
Bhutan	42	15 000	53	12	2	3233	746	106
Canada	5	388 000	162	37	5	86 864	20 045	2856
China	13	16 364 000	17 728	4091	583	3 634 035	838 624	119 475
Indonesia	25	4 331 000	9023	2082	297	950 113	219 257	31 237
Iran	21	1 255 000	2196	507	72	276 445	63 795	9089
Mexico	13	2 195 000	2378	549	78	487 455	112 490	16 026
Sudan	57	1 477 000	7016	1619	231	313 382	72 319	10 303
United Kingdom	4	761 000	254	59	8	170 540	39 355	5607

# Co-incident or causal event ?

## SIGNAL with newly introduced vaccines



### AEFI reports

- Pancreatitis (2)
- Multiple sclerosis (2)
- Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (1)
- Ascending neuropathy (1)
- Nephrotic syndrome (1)
- Vaginal blistering (6)
- Macularetinopathy (1)
- ITP (1),
- Hemolytic anaemia (1),
- Pancytopenia (1)
- Deep Vein Thrombosis (2)
- Brachial neuritis (1)

# Why do some individuals have an adverse reaction to a vaccine ?



Underlying immunodeficiency

## Non-immunological factors

Underlying or predisposing conditions

Febrile seizures

Genetic determinants – Narcolepsy, Dravet's

# Clinical approach to AEFI

## ❖ General Approach

Communication skills – empathy and trust

Don't dismiss possible causative role of the vaccine or immunisation

Understand the context

## ❖ Accurate history

### – Event

- Clearly define symptoms and signs (verify from Ambulance notes, providers, ED notes etc).
- Vaccine (s) administered
- Sequence of events – relationship to vaccination-onset time
- Alternate causative factors
- Management of the event
- Attitude and knowledge of health care providers

### – Past history

- Vaccine, medical and family history, co-morbid

## ❖ Establish the diagnosis / case definition

Do not focus on causative association with the vaccine or immunisation

## ❖ Consider causality

– **Known** adverse vaccine reaction, **alternate explanation** (co-incidental), none (unknown)

## ❖ Outcome

### – Vaccine or immunisation reaction

- Diagnosis, prognosis

### – Implications for re-vaccination

- Risk Benefit
- Same or different vaccine
- Contra-indications or precautions
- Support post-vaccination

– Post exposure prophylaxis if non-immune

# Conclusion

- Adverse Events Following Immunisation can be classified into vaccine product reactions, immunisation quality defects, immunisation errors, immunisation stress related responses or co-incidental events
- The mechanism of adverse vaccine and immunisation reactions are determined by the vaccine properties, the host and the environment
- Management of an individual who has had an AEFI needs to determine if this was a vaccine or immunisation reaction ascertain the risks and benefits of re-vaccination