

SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination in Children and Adolescents—A Joint Statement of the European Academy of Paediatrics and the European Confederation for Primary Care Paediatricians.

PERSPECTIVE article. Front. Pediatr., 23 August 2021

BACKGROUND - Stopping Covid-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic consequences is only possible with multifaceted strategy including mass vaccination. It appears that vaccination in children and Adolescents is highly effective and safe though there are some ethical concerns. The EAP and ECPCP have assessed the current situation and presented recommendations.

EVIDENCE and OBJECTIVE - The reported incidence of Covid in children is about 5 % of the total cases according to CDC. The socioeconomic, educational and public health impact has severely affected children and adolescents physical, intellectual and emotional development. The mandatory confinement at home of approx 1.5 billion young population has negatively influenced their health and social functioning. THE DISEASE - has been mild in children mostly with very few requiring intensive care. MIS-C has been observed in a subset of pediatric population post covid 19 infection. Long COVID - long standing effects of Covid may be seen Upto 6 months post infection.

ACADEMIC P.E.A.R.L.S

Pediatric Evidence And Research Learning Snippet



SARS- COV-2 vaccination in children and adolescents - A joint statement of EAP(European Association of Paediatricians) and ECPC(European Confederation of Primary care Paediatricians).

CLINICAL TRIALS in children above 12 years by Pfizer has shown an efficacy of 97-100%.

VACCINATION BENEFITS - Apparent advantage is to protect from covid 19 infection which mostly is mild. Hypothetically it may also prove effective in preventing MIS-C although this is yet to be established because a potential reverse correlation cannot be ruled out at this point. Vaccination will also encourage physical schooling and encourage vaccination against other infectious diseases which had been severely impacted during the lockdown.

SAFETY - short term safety of the vaccine has been positive. Adverse effects were reported in 5 out of 1131 vaccinated children(none were related to study intervention). No data on longterm effects is available yet. There are some reports of possible coincidence of SARS COV-2 vaccination and myocarditis - over 1000 cases reported amongst 180 million vaccinations. This seemingly affects adolescents 16 years or older- after second dose, the recovery is also quick.

VACCINE ALLOCATION - should be to those who are more vulnerable and get severe disease hence kids are low in priority.

CARE GIVERS WILLINGNESS - according to survey 60-70 % expressed their willingness to vaccinate their children. More number of countries have now started vaccination of children.

Recommendations of EAP and ECPCP -

Action is needed to clarify at the following levels:

- Ethical issues
- Clinical trial - should be supported and accelerated to provide reliable data.
- Legal framework should be in place.
- Support to paediatricians and other Healthcare providers.
- Children with underlying morbidity should get priority.

EXPERT COMMENT

“Pediatric vaccination against covid is the way forward, however the same should not be hurriedly done. Priority should be given to children with underlying morbidity. Pediatric covid vaccination should be promoted but after procuring reliable data on efficacy and safety following proper clinical trials and clarifying all ethical issues.”

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With warm regards,

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Reference

Łukasz Dembiński et al. SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination in Children and Adolescents—A Joint Statement of the European Academy of Paediatrics and the European Confederation for Primary Care Paediatricians. PERSPECTIVE article. Front. Pediatr., 23 August 2021. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fped.2021.721257>