OP 18 Frequency of injection site reactions following MMR and live JE vaccine in the Jaffna RDHS area: interim analysis of an active surveillance study

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INTRODUCTION: Characterizing injection site reactions following immunisations is important as they have been reported to be frequent and have the potential to affect the acceptance of the vaccine concerned.

OBJECTIVES: To describe the frequency, seriousness and outcome of injection site reaction following 1. Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) and 2. live Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccine.

METHODS: It is an interim analysis of an ongoing study aimed at actively monitoring the safety of MMR and live JE vaccines in the Jaffna Regional Directorate of Health Services area. A cohort of infants who received the MMR and live JE vaccines during a period of 8 months were followed up for 45 days either by telephone interview or home visit on day 1, 3, 14, 30 and 45 to determine occurrence of any adverse events. Diagnosis of an injection site reaction was made if the infant was found to have an abscess, cellulitis, induration, nodule, swelling, or local reaction at or near the injection site as defined by the Brighton Collaboration. Data were analysed using standard pharmacovigilant tools

RESULTS: Of the 1962 (MMR=979, JE=983) infants recruited, majority (84%) were followed up until 45 days. The frequency of injection site reaction was 0.2% for MMR and 0.5% for live JE vaccine. All were non-serious and comprised of induration (03), nodule (01), swelling (01), and local reactions (02). Apart from one local reaction (blister) which appeared on day 14 and the nodule which appeared on day 25, the rest occurred within 3 days of immunisation. Only one infant with a blister required medical treatment, the rest recovered spontaneously within 4 days

CONCLUSION: Frequency of injection site reactions following MMR and live JE vaccine in this cohort is considerably lower than the figures reported in the literature (MMR= 10%, Live JE= 1-3 %). Further study is required to confirm this observation.