Adolescent Health programme and its contribution to the success of vaccination in Finland

Kaarina Järvenpää
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# Childhood vaccination schedule

In Finland from 1.1.2005

(Vaccinator’s Handbook by National Public Health Institute)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Vaccination</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After birth</td>
<td>BCG</td>
<td>Risk group*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>DTaP-IPV-Hib</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 months</td>
<td>DTaP-IPV-Hib</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>DTaP-IPV-Hib</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-18 months</td>
<td>MPR I (=MMR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 year</td>
<td>DTaP-IPV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 year</td>
<td>MPR II (=MMR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15 year</td>
<td>dtap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vaccination schedules
(Old and new; Vaccinator’s Handbook)

- Vaccination injections 16 --> 7 (8, if BCG)
2.1) How are the children/adolescents reached?

School medicine system

- In the children health clinics 0-6 year-olds
- In the schools 7-16 year-olds
- School health recommendations (2004) by Ministry of Social affairs and Health:
  - Physical examination by a nurse or a doctor annually
  - One nurse per 600 pupils – in fact 600-900 pupils
  - One school doctor per 2100 pupils – in fact more
  - Three comprehensive physical examinations by a doctor: at the grade one or two, five or six and eight
2.2) How are the children/adolescents reached? Other channels

- In a small scale
  - in private policlinics
  - in hospitals and policlinics
  - in health centres
3) Who are the vaccinators?

- Vaccinators:
  - Mostly nurses
  - maybe GP’s in children health clinics, if doctor’s physical examination at same time (5%?)
  - BCG at birth: Nurse or paediatrician in hospital
  - Nurses in the school (100%)
4) Training of the vaccinators?

- Nurses studied during their studies
- GP’s in practice and during their studies
- Training before system changed 1.1.2005
- RONJA (Data counselling system)
- Vaccinator’s Handbook by National Public Health Institute
  - As book, available into communicator
  - In the internet
  - Telephone counselling system
5) Financing of child and adolescent vaccination

- Vaccines a line item in the national budget,
- From the local government
  - Needles, syringes etc.
  - Time and salary of vaccinators
- Vaccination schedule and risk groups free of charge
- Chargeable vaccines:
  - Rotarix, Varilrix, Gardasil, Hepatitis vaccines for travellers, Pneumococcus vaccines etc.
6) Decisions on introduction of new vaccines

- Decision on introduction of new vaccines
  - Ministry of Social affairs and Health

- Recommendations:
  - National Public Health Institute
    - Vaccine recommendation board
    - National vaccination advisory board (KRAR in Finnish)
  - Subgroups considering possibilities of a new vaccine
    - Pneumococcus vaccines, Rotarix, Varilrix, HPV etc.
7) Coverage data

Not available exactly, but coming, about 95%

- Study by M.D., Ph.D Tuija Leino
  - A random sample of 1000 children born in 2001, data for 2-3 first years collected (995 received)
  - Fully vaccinated (12 doses) 95.2% (95% CI 93.7-96.4)
    - (1 BCG, 4 DTP, 3 Hib, 3 polio, 1 MMR)
    - Only three children with 5 or less doses
8) Strengths of the immunization programmes

Almost all children reached

- School health system (=nurse) in every school
- Vaccinations systematic and free
- Attitude positive
- System well acting:
  - BCG vaccine side effects increased 10x 2002-2004 with the stronger vaccine
  - > Only risk groups vaccination 1.9.2006-
9) Challenges of the immunization programmes

- School children’s vaccination

  Challenges and thresholds:
  - Some families refuse vaccinations
    - Not a great problem until now
  - Different cultures increasing
  - BCG risk groups to be recognised in future
  - New vaccines expensive: Gardasil, Rotarix…
10) Conclusions

- Almost all (over 95% in 2004) fully vaccinated
- Vaccination free for children and risk groups
- BCG only for risk groups
- New program (combination vaccines)
  - 1.1.2005 - -> less injections
- Nurses as vaccinators
Thank You!