

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

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March 15th 2007

Childhood vaccination schedule

In Finland from 1.1.2005

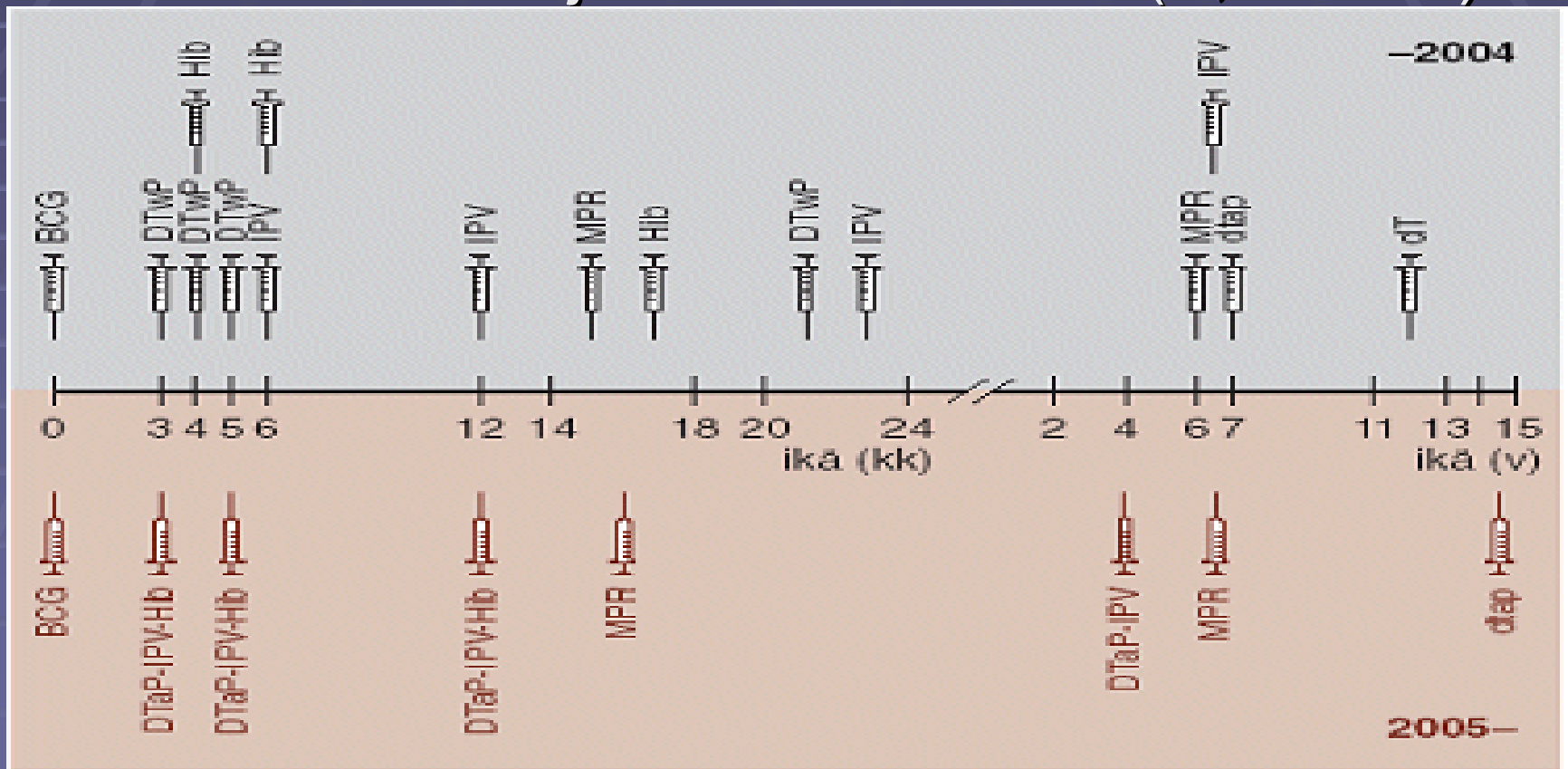
(Vaccinator's Handbook by National Public Health Institute)

Age	Vaccination	Comments
After birth	BCG	Risk group*
3 months	DTaP-IPV-Hib	
5 months	DTaP-IPV-Hib	
12 months	DTaP-IPV-Hib	
14-18 months	MPR I (=MMR)	
4 year	DTaP-IPV	
6 year	MPR II (=MMR)	
14-15 year	dtap	

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 polyclinics
 - in hospitals and polyclinics
 - 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

(Finnish Medical Journal 8/2007 www.laakarilehti.fi)

- 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!

