

## Editorial

### **Needed: A more sensible flu prevention**

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#### **Abstract**

In the spring of 2004, the CDC published new recommendations in regards to Influenza vaccination. During the summer, the flu vaccine manufactured by Chiron in its British plant and intended for the 2004-2005 season was banned for use in the United States. The CDC had already mounted an intense publicity campaign to support its new recommendations when it was faced with the “perceived” shortage. The “threatening” epidemic never materialized and the flu season was one of the mildest. Many lessons were learned: (1) hype and propaganda do not necessarily result in better vaccination rates; (2) unexpected and new virus strains may appear during the season; (3) some of the “at risk-groups” may not benefit from vaccination; (4) Influenza A virus is becoming increasingly resistant to anti-viral medications; (5) avoiding exposure remains the ideal prophylaxis; (6) appropriate and selective vaccination should be closely monitored.

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