

Polio eradication: experts have misled us

Yash Paul, MB BS, DCH

Consultant Pediatrician

A-D-7, Devi Marg,

Bani Park,

Jaipur-302016, India

Phone : +91 141 231 4774

Email: dryashpaul2003@yahoo.com

Abstract

In 1988 the World Health Assembly passed resolution WHA 41.28 which committed the WHO to the global eradication of poliomyelitis by 2000. India is among the few remaining countries where despite pulse polio immunization (PPI) campaigns for the past eleven years, polio has not been eradicated. There has been very high incidence of vaccine failure with OPV; children are known to have developed polio despite taking many doses of OPV. No efforts have been made to discover the reasons for poor vaccine performance. OPV can cause Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis (VAPP) due to neurotoxic mutant vaccine polioviruses. Although incidence is extremely low in immunocompetent individuals, this risk is very high in those who are immunocompromised. Failure to provide IPV can be construed as a deliberate action to put some persons at avoidable risk of developing polio. The India Experts Advisory Group (IEAG) has seemingly misled the nation for many years with repeated assurances that polio will be eradicated very soon. Deadlines for polio eradication have been extended from 2000 to 2002, 2004, and then 2005. No serological studies have been conducted during this time to discover if the vaccine is generating sufficient antibody protection in vaccine recipients. IPV has not been made available in India due to frivolous excuses that include IPV, being injectable, has to be administered by trained personnel and carries all the complications of injections. Rather than acknowledging the ineffectiveness of polio vaccine, the experts erroneously blame failure of the program on those children who had not participated in the pulse polio immunization, implying that wild poliovirus circulation is maintained because of these non-participants.

© Copyright 2006, Pearblossom Private School, Inc.—Publishing Division. All rights reserved.

Keywords: polio, polio vaccine, oral polio vaccine (OPV), inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis (VAPP), failure of polio eradication program
