

**RE-VACCINATION OF 47 CHILDREN WITH A PAST HISTORY OF AN ADVERSE
VACCINE REACTION IN A TERTIARY PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL**

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AIMS: To describe the re-vaccination of children with a past history of adverse event following immunisation (AEFI). **METHODS:** A retrospective review of children attending Department (period 1999-2002). **RESULTS:** During the review 47 children attended with experienced past history of AEFI. Of those, 64% were boys. Age range was 4-48 months. 36/47 (76%) children had a history of fever, 12/47 (25%) convulsions, 10/47 (20%) vomiting, 7/47 (15%) skin rash (usually urticarial), 5/47 (10%) local reactions, 1 child had a hypotonic hyporesponsive episode, 1 had diarrhoea and 1 screaming. In 45/47 (94%) children the AEFI was associated with administration of DTPw vaccine (alone or in combination with OPV). The remaining 2/47 (6%) of AEFIs were associated with administration of MMR. 17/47 (36%) children were re-vaccinated in the Department. 2/47 (6%) children were not vaccinated (one with anaphylaxis caused by egg-sensitivity and one with HHE post DTPw). 28/47 (55%) children were re-vaccinated in their primary-care immunisation service. Of the 45 children re-vaccinated 3/47 (7%) experienced fever and/or local reaction. **CONCLUSIONS:** In Macedonia vaccine coverage for three doses of DTPw, OPV and MMR is estimated to be 92-96%. The Department of Immunology functioning also as a special immunisation service. The service is an essential component of the immunisation programme and conveys an important message that AEFI do occur, that are taken seriously by health providers, but rarely contraindicate further doses.

