

P0275

Paper Poster Session I

Progress in vaccination

Vaccination against serogroup B *Neisseria meningitidis*: perceptions and attitudes of parents

S. Le Ngoc Tho¹, F. Valour^{2,3}, T. Ferry^{2,3}, F. Ader^{2,3}, D. Floret¹, C. Chidiac^{2,3}

¹Department of General Medicine- Claude Bernard Lyon 1 University, Lyon, Lyon, France

²CIRI - INSERM U1111 - Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, Lyon, France

Objectives: A vaccine against serogroup B *Neisseria meningitidis*, the first etiologic agent of bacterial meningitis, has recently been developed. In a context of an increasing parental mistrust of vaccinations, the understanding of their attitude toward a potential new vaccination and of the reason for their choices is of great importance in order to improve immunization coverage. Our study aimed at evaluating parental attitudes and perceptions toward a new serogroup B meningococcal invasive disease vaccination.

Methods: In a prospective observational study conducted in different French general practitioners / paediatricians offices and nurseries between May 1 and December 31, 2013, a questionnaire in electronic and paper forms was distributed to parents having at least one child between the ages of 2 months and 16 year-old. This questionnaire assessed demographics (sex, age, profession), the spontaneous attitude concerning a new serogroup B meningococcal invasive disease vaccination, the reason for accepting/refusing this vaccination, and the impact of objective information about the disease and the vaccine on the reluctant parents.

Results: 1,270 parents were included (women, 81.4%; age 36 year-old (IQR, 31-40)), of whom 671 (52.8%) spontaneously declared to be in favour of this vaccination. The main reasons for acceptance were the severity of meningitis (n=428; 63.8%), the desire to protect their child against the maximum of pathologies (n=347; 51.7%), and the eventual proposal of vaccination by their GP or paediatrician (n=316; 47.1%). Subjects accepting vaccination were statistically younger (34 year-old (IQR 30-39) versus 37 year-old (IQR 32-42); $p < 10^{-3}$), lived more frequently in urban areas (366/652 (56.1%) versus 290/591 (49.1%); $p = 0.012$), exercised most often in medical professions (240/390 (61.5%) versus 429/876 (49%); $p < 10^{-3}$), reported more often that their child was vaccinated against serogroup C *N. meningitidis* (352/464 (75.9%) versus 125/376 (33.2%); $p < 10^{-3}$), and were more frequently aware of this new vaccine (133/212 (62.7%) versus 538/1.058 (50.8%); $p = 0.002$). In multivariate analysis, the age of parents (OR 0.949 per additional year; $p < 10^{-3}$), the vaccination against serogroup C meningococcal invasive diseases (OR 6,755; $p < 10^{-3}$), and the prior knowledge of the vaccine (OR 2.081; $p = 0.001$) were associated with vaccination acceptance. The main reasons for refusal were the lack of experience with this new vaccine (50.6%) and the fear of side effects (45.5%). After objective information of the reluctant parents on the disease and the vaccine, 93.7% of the children could consider to join the vaccination program with parental agreement.

Conclusion: Even if the spontaneous acceptance of vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal invasive diseases is unsatisfactory, our findings demonstrated that few parents are completely resistant. Parental scepticism is due primarily to a lack of knowledge about the disease and its vaccination. The contribution of objective information to parents by their practitioner and health authorities will likely be the determining factors to improve immunization coverage.