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Monitoring Safety and Vaccine Adverse Events in a Mass Immunization Program

Nan-Chang Chiu^{1*}

¹Department of Medical Affairs, MacKay Children's Hospital

*Corresponding Author: Nan-Chang Chiu

Email: ncc88@mmh.org.tw

Abstract

Although mass immunization assists in pandemic control, many people have doubts about receiving vaccines. Adverse events that occur after vaccination are generally related to other health problems rather than the vaccines themselves. However, inaccurate media reporting on such events may considerably influence people's willingness to receive vaccinations and may causing vaccine hesitancy. Adverse vaccine reactions are side effects of vaccines, including local reactions at the injection site, systemic reactions, and allergic reactions. Taiwan established a passively monitored Vaccination Adverse Event Reporting System and an actively monitored Taiwan V-Watch System to monitor the adverse events of the COVID-19 vaccines to identify potential safety concerns. Taiwan also established the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, which offers financial relief to those who experience adverse reactions. Establishing trust in the safety of vaccines is crucial to ensure the vaccination rates and outbreaks control. People should feel confident in receiving vaccines, since the effects of such vaccines are under well monitoring.

Keywords: mass immunization program, vaccine hesitancy, vaccine safety surveillance, vaccine adverse events, vaccine adverse reactions

大規模疫苗施打時的安全監測與疫苗不良事件

邱南昌^{1*}

¹台灣基督長老教會馬偕醫療財團法人馬偕兒童醫院醫務部

*通訊作者：邱南昌

電子信箱：ncc88@mmh.org.tw

所屬單位：台灣基督長老教會馬偕醫療財團法人馬偕兒童醫院醫務部

聯絡地址：臺北市中山北路二段92號

摘要

在全球性大流行的情況下，疫苗的大規模施打對疫情的控制有很大的幫助，然而疫苗施打也會引發不少疑慮。施打疫苗後發生的不良事件是指施打後發生影響健康的事件，與疫苗間並不必然具有因果相關性，但若媒體進行錯誤報導，謠言可能會對民眾施打疫苗的意願影響甚大；而疫苗不良反應指的是疫苗的副作用，分為注射部位的局部反應、全身性反應及過敏反應。臺灣有被動監測的疫苗不良事件通報系統、主動監測的V-Watch預防接種健康回報，用以監測大規模施打疫苗後是否有安全警訊出現，亦有預防接種受害救濟制度可給予真的受害者適當救濟。對於疫苗安全性的信任是提高接種率、快速控制疫情的重要因素，在良好的監測下，民眾應可放心接種。

關鍵詞：大規模疫苗施打、疫苗猶豫、疫苗安全監測、疫苗不良事件、疫苗不良反應