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Letter to Editor

Children Vaccination, Safety Screening of Adverse Drug Reactions to Covid-19 Vaccines: Updates and Highlights (June 2021)

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Vaccinum development against SARS-CoV-2 is one among the foremost time-pressured scientific challenges of 2020 and 2021. Although it is known that vaccine development would normally takes more than 10 years to get from preclinical phases to market, for SARS-CoV-2, over 280 vaccine projects are in development stage with unprecedented speed and the timeline has been set to 12 - 18 months [1]. Several candidates have managed to progress through preclinical and early clinical stages at this record speed and also approved and started to be used with masses while restricted timelines increase the risk of limited knowledge on the efficacy and safety of vaccines.

While various vaccines to prevent SARS-CoV-2 infection have become available in different countries, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is also authorized for use in children and adolescents 12 through 17 years [2-4].

If we review the case reports of Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) from the international literature in 2020 shows how the USA were a leading country when it came to published case reports [5]. While USA reports are over 5000+, EU has a total reporting system for all the union countries and more than 100,000 reported medicinal products and active substances were coded, and 1,888 potential signals were analyzed and revived [6]. Information on these reported suspected side effects should not be interpreted as meaning that the medication/vaccination or the active substance causes the observed effect or is unsafe to use but a transparency key use to review the safety of a medicine or active substance by all the authorities and also the general public. Starting from April 2020, a dedicated monitoring of ADR reports related to COVID-19 to facilitate the visualization and screening of safety reports related to COVID-19 from the agencies.

While different countries have different vaccine brand supplies, may also have specific allocation priorities for distributing the initial vaccine supplies, the reporting of safety concerns and signals are reached immediately after a specific group have started to vaccinated at that time. Until now, fatigue, headache, chills, and myalgia reactions were commonly reported among adolescents aged 12 through 15 years following the second dose of Pfizer-BionTech vaccine while these adverse effects are reported to be not preventing from daily activities and are limited to the first two days after vaccination [7].

While with the beginning of vaccination of new age groups possible worldwide, and also a booster dose may started to be shot some groups, more and new signals should be expected. In short brief of time but with a great transparency and reporting, we should see new challenges by the second half of the 2021 while these new reports will lead the vaccination campaigns and great war against the pandemic. Still the most important problem and also the battlefield maybe is against the false news that halt the people get properly vaccinated.

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