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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



A longitudinal cohort study of the relationship between Thimerosal-containing hepatitis B vaccination and specific delays in development in the United States: Assessment of attributable risk and lifetime care costs

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Received 22 March 2015; received in revised form 4 May 2015; accepted 1 June 2015

Available online 9 July 2015

KEYWORDS

Ethylmercury;
Merthiolate;
Thimerosal;
Thiomersal;
Vaccine

Abstract Epidemiological evidence suggests a link between mercury (Hg) exposure from Thimerosal-containing vaccines and specific delays in development. A hypothesis-testing longitudinal cohort study ($n = 49,835$) using medical records in the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) was undertaken to evaluate the relationship between exposure to Hg from Thimerosal-containing hepatitis B vaccines (T-HBVs) administered at specific intervals in the first 6 months of life and specific delays in development [International Classification of Disease, 9th revision (ICD-9): 315.xx] among children born between 1991 and 1994 and continuously enrolled from birth for at least 5.81 years. Infants receiving increased Hg doses from T-HBVs administered within the first month, the first 2 months, and the first 6 months of life were significantly more likely to be diagnosed with specific delays in development than infants receiving no Hg doses from T-HBVs. During the decade in which T-HBVs were routinely recommended and administered to US infants (1991–2001),

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Peer review under responsibility of Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jegh.2015.06.002>

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