

## Safety of meningococcal group C conjugate vaccines in Wales: the importance of the Yellow Card

Sri Ranganathan S, Routledge P A, Davies D P  
Departments of Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Toxicology and Child Health,  
University of Wales College of Medicine

**Keywords:** meningococcal group C vaccine, adverse drug reaction, yellow card

### Introduction:

In November 1999 a mass national immunisation campaign to vaccinate all children under 18 years with the new meningococcal C conjugate vaccines began. We have analysed adverse reactions to the new vaccine reported to CSM Wales during the first fifteen-month period.

### Methods:

The Welsh Adverse Drug Reaction Scheme, established 1983, receives Yellow Cards from health care professionals in Wales. The data from the yellow cards are maintained in a comprehensive database. Details of Yellow Card reporting a reaction following meningococcal C conjugate vaccine during the study period were extracted from this database.

### Results:

There were 1084 reports containing 1,924 suspected reactions. Nurses completed approximately 50% of the reports with general practitioners and hospital doctors reporting the remainder. 80% of the reports were from the older age group

(> 5 years). Adverse reactions most frequently reported were injection site reactions, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, rashes, urticaria and syncope. Only 11.6% of them were classed as serious.

### Conclusions:

These findings illustrate the importance of the Yellow Card Scheme for reporting adverse reactions to medicines in children.

***Awarded the WPS Poster Prize***