



Minutes of the meeting of the IAP Advisory Committee on Vaccines & Immunization Practices (ACVIP) of Indian Academy of Pediatrics held on October 1, 2016 at IAP House, Nerul, Navi Mumbai 11.00 AM onwards.

The following IAP ACVIP members were present at the meeting:

Dr. Pramod Jog, Chair

Dr Sachidanand Kamath, Chair

Dr Anupam Sachdeva, Chair

Dr Ajay Gaambhir, Nodal person

Dr Vipin M. Vashishtha, Convener

Dr. Jaydeep Chowdhary, Convener

Dr Jeeson C. Unni, Member

Dr Sangeeta Yadav, Member

Dr S. Sanjay, Member

Dr S.B Kadam, Treasurer, IAP Mumbai (OB of the Academy)

Following member/s requested leave of absence:

Dr Baldev Prajapati, Member

Dr Bakul Parekh, IAP Coordinator & Hon. Secretary General, IAP

Proceeding & recommendations:

'Term of Reference' (TOR) and 'Conflicts of Interest' (CoI) issues

Dr. Pramod Jog (PJ), Chairman, ACVIP welcomed the participants and called the meeting to order. He informed the house that a conference call of all the Office Bearers (OBs) of the Central IAP was organized three days prior to this meeting and it was decided to video record the entire proceeding of the meeting. He informed the participants that Dr S.B. Kadam would remain present in the entire meeting as an observer from CIAP. He further stated that it was also decided in the conference call that the first agenda item, i.e., "Committee's TOR & Conflicts of Interest (CoI) issues" would not be taken up for discussion in the beginning of the meeting and only limited discussion would be allowed only after the scientific deliberations had completed. Dr Vipin M. Vashishtha (VMV), convener of the committee raised objection to this arrangement citing that these issues had serious implications on the scientific deliberations and framing of recommendations. The issue of constituting a 3-member sub-committee to analyze/scrutinize CoI declarations of the members was again raised. Dr PJ replied that it was decided in the OB's conference call that the committee cannot direct IAP EB and OBs to form such a sub-committee, and only the OBs have the right to take any decision in this regard. VMV clarified that since it would be inappropriate for the committee to itself take decision on the CoI issues pertaining to its members, hence the demand to constitute a separate committee of senior, respected IAP members (may be past OBs) to scrutinize declarations and to take appropriate decision as was done in the past.

ACVIP 2016 recommendations

VMV discussed the current status of the ACVIP 2016 recommendations and presented the chronology of the events, from the circulation of the first draft of the recommendations amongst committee members to the publication and later removal of the same from the Indian Pediatrics website. The circumstances under which the recommendations were removed from the journal's website were also discussed. The issue of non-submission of CTFs by Dr Anupam Sachdeva (AS) and Dr Ajay Gambhir (AG) was also taken up for the discussion. The two authors who had not submitted their CTF forms

cited their disagreement on some issues pertaining to the committee's approval given to PedaTyph-TM brand.

After detailed discussion, the chair asked the dissenting members to discuss the contentious part of the typhoid vaccine recommendations. Dr VMV once again presented the data on typhoid conjugate vaccines. Afterwards, Dr AS presented his point of view regarding the shortcomings of the efficacy trial of the PedaTyph-TM vaccine. All the queries raised by Dr AS and Dr AG were satisfactorily answered in the ensuing discussion in which all other committee members took part. In the last, it was decided that the issue of typhoid recommendations and signing of CTF forms would be settled within next 7 days in consultation with Dr AS and VMV.

Other scientific deliberations

Dr AS delivered a talk on vaccination of immuno-compromised children. It was felt that the existing recommendations on vaccination of immuno-compromised children needed revision. Hence, it was decided to convene a meeting of all the renowned pediatric hemato-oncologists of the country to bring out a detailed recommendation on this issue. It was also decided to publish a position paper on the same after the consultative meeting.

Influenza vaccination: The session on influenza vaccination explored the need of any revision of the existing guidelines of the committee. Dr VMV presented a brief overview of the issues associated with the influenza vaccination in the country. Dr Sangeeta Yadav (SY) presented the recent data on burden of influenza in the country whereas Dr Jeason Unni (JU) delivered a presentation on available influenza vaccines in the country including the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV). After detailed discussion and analysis of the recent data on the disease burden and flu vaccine effectiveness, it was decided that there was not any new information that could necessitate any change in the existing ACVIP recommendation on influenza vaccination except probably a shift in the peak incidence of the disease in some parts of the country. The detailed analysis of the peak incidence of the disease in the last 10 years revealed that the peak influenza activity was noticed in the early months (i.e., February to April) of the year, hence the timing of annual influenza vaccination should

cover this period also. Regarding the LAIV vaccine recommendations, it was decided to continue with the existing recommendations of use of the vaccine in healthy children since there was not adequate data available from the country on the effectiveness of the LAIV vaccine. The committee do not recommend discontinuation of LAIV use in healthy individuals contrary to the recent CDC ACIP recommendations in this regard.

Varicella vaccination: Dr S.Sanjay (SS) lead the discussion on the need of revision of varicella vaccination schedule, particularly the timing of 2nd dose in the light of queries from IAP members in this regard. He outlined the reasons behind current schedule in which 2nd dose of the vaccine was recommended at 4-6 years of age. It was found that preponing the 2nd dose at 18 months, i.e., 3 months after the 1st dose may not be a wise decision considering the current epidemiology of the disease in the country where majority of the cases were in the school going age group. An early 2nd dose may theoretically provide protection against the breakthrough varicella experienced in a miniscule population between 15 months to 4 years of age. The cell mediated immunity and GMTs were also found higher with the later schedule. Hence, it was unanimously decided to continue with the existing schedule. Dr AG suggested delaying the 1st dose of the vaccine to 18 months instead of 15 months so that better immune responses were achieved and breakthrough rates were also cutoff. However, it was informed that the issue was discussed at length in the past, and the current schedule was found to provide best possible immune protection with early protection against the wild disease.

ACVIP publications

It was unanimously decided to prioritize the process of revision of IAP Guidebook on Immunization so that the same can be released during upcoming Bangalore Pedicon. The process to revise other key IAP publication, IAP Textbook of Vaccines shall also be taken up at the same time. The National Publication House (NPH) of IAP based in New Delhi will take up the responsibility of the printing and distribution of the both publications. No direct funding from the vaccine companies would be accepted.

Dr VMV apprised the members about the status of the ACVIP website and the recent accreditation of the site by the WHO Vaccine Safety Network (VSN). He also informed the house about a meeting of the WHO VSN in Geneva in November to discuss experience on innovative approaches to tackle vaccine safety digital communication.

In the end, the Chair, Dr PJ thanked all the participants for their active participation and declared the meeting as over.

-Minutes prepared by Vipin M. Vashishtha with the inputs from Dr Jaydeep Choudhury & Dr Sangeeta Yadav