

Review of: "Relevance of Medical Ethics in Public Health: Case Study of Polio Eradication"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

REVIEW FOR THE PUBLICATION of T. Jacob John & Dhanya Dharmapalan – Feb 2023

Excellent publication by the authors!!! Clear, concise, informative. Perfectly agreed that ETHICS should be for everyone! NO BIASES! Lack of Ethics is what continues to happen in Latin America and in various parts of the world!

While people with high incomes pay for the inactivated IPV vaccine at private vaccination centers, as part of the combined vaccines, the low-income children have to be subject to receiving the attenuated polio vaccines offered by national (public) vaccination programs. And continuing to run the risk of developing polio triggered by the attenuated vaccine itself, especially if not received and/or not responded to the necessary doses of previously inactivated vaccine, now recommended in at least two doses by national programs.

Furthermore, the use of the OPV vaccine continues to disseminate the attenuated virus in the environment, leading to the appearance of cVDPV, iVDPV and aVDPV with their complications.

Latin America was the first region in the world to eliminate wild polio and the first to detect an outbreak of cVDPV1 in 2001, as mentioned by the authors.

Currently, with vaccination coverage far below what is necessary and recommended in various parts of the world, the possibility of the appearance of polio by the attenuated virus is even greater! Even when coverage seems to be quite high in the region, there is always someone left unvaccinated, subject to the development of the disease.

In addition to the low coverage, Acute Flaccid Paralysis surveillance in Latin America is precarious, making it difficult to confirm cases, and environmental surveillance is almost non-existent.

There are many specialists in Latin America who are aware of this reality (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), whose countries are, albeit at a very slow pace, changing their vaccination programs against polio, indicating the exclusive inactivated vaccine

It is amazing and surprising to note that some health institutions in Latin America continue to encourage the use of OPV!

That way, polio will never be eradicated, and the lack of ethics in health will continue! As WHO says: only IPV can eradicate both wild poliovirus and the VDPVs.

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