

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.

Reviewer comments for: **Relevance of Medical Ethics in Public Health: Case Study of Polio Eradication**

General

1. The manuscript has many punctuation errors.
2. The manuscript does not have proper paragraphing and should be re-arranged.

Comments

1. The manuscript refers more to the efficacy and safety of the polio vaccines than to the medical ethics issues.
2. Medical ethics is concerned with the vast array of moral factors such as Beneficence, Nonmaleficence, Autonomy, Informed Consent, Truth-Telling, Confidentiality and Justice. However, apart from ethics, there is a need for legislation and law for supporting of public health. For example, in the field of vaccination, continuous monitoring of side effects and efficacy of vaccines is an essential element of any vaccine safety monitoring system.
3. Hiding the serious side effects of vaccines by international organizations, national regulatory authorities, drug and vaccine manufacturers or other formal organizations is definitely not only unethical but also illegal and is one of the known examples of crimes against humanity, according to the "Clause k" definition of the UN "Crimes Against Humanity". <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/crimes-against-humanity.shtml>. However, we should note that the statements of these organizations has a recommendation and not an obligation aspect. The vaccination program recommendation of international organizations should always be reviewed by the national advisory committee on Immunization and vaccination of each country and then either accepted or rejected. After introduction of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), each country's advisory committee on Immunization and vaccination had to decide whether to use vaccine IPV or not. In any case, national laws take precedence over international recommendations. Of course, if documents show that the international organization has directly or indirectly recommended and encouraged the use of OPV vaccine despite its more and serious side effects, it is capable of prosecution.
4. Any kind of compensation requires law, lawsuit, competent court for hearing the lawsuit and issuance of judgment and consequently, economist alone, is not enough.
5. The article has a strong structure in terms of references and efficacy and safety evaluation of the polio vaccines is chronologically well done.

Final Decision: Accepted with minor revision

