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Influenza Vaccination in School-aged Children

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Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), every flu season varies, and an influenza infection can affect people differently. Millions of people get the flu every year, hundreds of thousands of people are hospitalized, and thousands or tens of thousands of people die from flu-related causes every year. Everyone is at risk for influenza, but the highest risk lies within children who are still developing their immune systems. However, with vaccines, this risk is easily preventable and can decrease a person's chances of acquiring the infection. As such, the CDC recommends that every person six months and older should be vaccinated annually. This is even more important for children because they attend schools where they have maximum exposure to various strains of influenza six to ten hours daily. They can easily spread and contract the disease in their school environment, specifically from children that are not vaccinated. This leads to the hypothesis that children six months to 17 years should be required to receive influenza vaccinations.

### Study Title

**Experimental Study**

**Sample Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Title</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Sample Demographics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The efficacy of live attenuated, cold-adapted, tetravalent influenza virus vaccine in children</td>
<td>Quantitative Study</td>
<td>n = 2: Children 1-17 months of age, location: Mountain View, California. Date: 1/6-1/7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza vaccine efficacy in young children attending childcare: randomized controlled trial</td>
<td>Mixed Study</td>
<td>n = 12: Children age 6 months to 6 years old, location: Sydney, Australia. Date: 2011.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Influenza Vaccine Price List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Brand/Trade Name</th>
<th>Pediatric dose</th>
<th>Contract #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanofi Pasteur</td>
<td>Fluarix ™</td>
<td>10 dose vial</td>
<td>70461 – 2019.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanofi Pasteur</td>
<td>Flucelavax ™</td>
<td>10 dose vial</td>
<td>70462 – 2019.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GlaxoSmithKline</td>
<td>Fluzone High-Dose ™</td>
<td>10 dose vial</td>
<td>70463 – 2019.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GlaxoSmithKline</td>
<td>Fluzone ™</td>
<td>10 dose vial</td>
<td>70464 – 2019.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GlaxoSmithKline</td>
<td>Fluzone Quadrivalent ™</td>
<td>10 dose vial</td>
<td>70465 – 2019.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Influenza Vaccination

- **Many parents feel more compelled to get their child vaccinated when their health care provider verbally explores the topic with them.**
- If the 11 parents who received the influenza vaccine stated that they would continue to vaccinate their child against influenza, only 5 said they would not vaccinate their child.
- Many parents and patients get the vaccine when it is convenient and low in cost.
- It is more cost-effective when the cost is between 6-2 months old, and with high-risk patients with chronic illnesses to reduce hospital visits.
- Children have a higher rate of clinical visits and emergency department encounters during the flu season.
- The major drivers of vaccination were prevention of influenza (95.1%), a doctor’s recommendation (80.9%), and the desire to reduce influenza symptoms (78.9%).
- The average cost of a flu vaccine is $20 per person.

### Implications for Practice

- **There is not enough information gathered to support the hypothesis that children at the ages of 6 months to 17 years should be required for vaccinations of influenza.**
- Need the perspective of experts for these kinds of research to help better outweigh the different variables.
- Published studies show that there are health benefits to support the hypothesis, it does not prove to be cost effective as age increases.
- The cost may outweigh the benefits for those of lower socioeconomic class and those with low risk for contracting the influenza.
- It is however both cost effective and health beneficial for children ages 6-2 months where they have weaker immune systems.
- Instead of original hypothesis, Requiring healthcare providers to inform and clear up misconceptions about the influenza vaccine to decrease the prevalence the spread of the flu may be a future study to look at.

### Further Studies

- **Expert viewpoints of influenza vaccinations and thoughts in how to society can better prevent the prevalence of the flu.**
- More qualitative studies on viewpoints of influenza vaccination and the reason for their beliefs in taking influenza vaccination.
- Further quantitative and qualitative studies on herd immunity.
- Further qualitative studies on social media and the effects on vaccination rates.