

Shift in Worldwide Polio Vaccine Approach in 2005

New monovalent oral polio vaccines (mOPVs) are now used to more rapidly interrupt the final strains of poliovirus transmission around the world. Monovalent OPV1 was first used in India in April 2005 and has subsequently been used in Egypt to interrupt endemic strains of virus. It has also been used in Yemen and Angola to stop outbreaks in these previously polio-free countries, and in Somalia to minimize the risk of an outbreak becoming a widespread epidemic.

Circulation of wild poliovirus type 2 has been interrupted since 1999. In the final stage of polio eradication, only type 1 and type 3 wild polioviruses continue to circulate. The new monovalent vaccines contain only one of the three types of polioviruses in a live-attenuated form. When outbreaks are detected, the type of polio can be determined and authorities can vaccinate children with the specific monovalent vaccine.

The principal weapon used in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has

been the trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV), which includes three types of polioviruses in a live-attenuated form that gives protection against all three types of wild poliovirus. However, there is actually competition among the three viruses to cause immunity, which results in protection but not with equal efficiency for each type. ●

SOURCE: Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Monovalent oral poliovaccines, *Fact Sheet* (www.polioeradication.org)

Report of Polio in Minnesota

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Should a person who is traveling out of the country obtain a booster?

In short, adults who were vaccinated with 3 or more doses of OPV or IPV as children may benefit from a single lifetime booster dose as an adult, if they are at increased risk for exposure to poliovirus through travel to a polio endemic or outbreak country. Check the list of countries on the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website (www.cdc.gov/travel).

What is the lesson learned by this experience?

Actually, there are three important lessons to be learned. First, it is important to vaccinate all children with polio vaccine. Secondly, all countries live under a continued threat as long as polio transmission continues in any country, and lastly, this experience reminds us of the importance of rapidly completing global polio eradication. ●

Global Polio Eradication Initiative

What is the latest?

There are **6 countries with endemic polio** (Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Niger, Afghanistan and Egypt) and **10 countries which have been re-infected** (Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Angola, Mali, Cameroon, Chad and Eritrea).

Where can you find the latest?

A website at www.polioeradication.org sponsored by World Health Organization, Rotary International, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF contains the most up-to-date information. ●