COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF RUBELLA VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL PERSONNELS IN SRINAGARIND HOSPITAL.
(MEDICAL SCHOOL HOSPITAL)

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การวิเคราะห์ค่าตอบแทน-ผลได้ ของการฉีดวัคซีนป้องกันพิษเยอรมัน
แก่ผู้พยาบาลทั้งหมดของมหาวิทยาลัยศิริราช

วิชชานุกรม ศึกษานิเทศก์ ม.ร. วิจัย ศูนย์การแพทย์ ทม. โรงพยาบาลศิริราช ทม. โรงพยาบาลศิริราช ทม.

การศึกษาวิเคราะห์ป้องกันพิษเยอรมัน ผู้มีผลประโยชน์หลักคือ ผู้มีผลกระทบต่อ
ทั้งระบบกลไก การกระจายการรักษาผู้ป่วยของศิริรักษ์ศิริราชและผู้เป็นผู้สูง
วัยที่ต้องรักษา และมีผลต่อการรับผู้ป่วยระหว่างวัคซีน และประสิทธิภาพช่วยผู้สูง
วัยผู้ป่วย นับเป็นสิทธิ์และผลลัพธ์ของการฉีดวัคซีนแก่ผู้สูงวัยที่ต้องรักษา โดยไม่ต้อง
ตรวจด้านภูมิคุ้มกันก่อนฉีดวัคซีน 137 คน ซึ่งอยู่ในวัยรุ่นซึ่งได้รับการ
ฉีดวัคซีนทุกคนแล้ววัคซีนโรคติดต่อในบริเวณ

WASTAR BA 273, HUMAN DIPLOID CELLS เลือกตรวจภูมิคุ้มกันจากการเจ็บป่วยและตรวจด้านภูมิคุ้มกัน
ของผู้ป่วยทั้งหมด ทราบว่าการใช้ประโยชน์สูงต่อคณะแพทย์ ที่มีผู้ป่วย-ผลิตภัณฑ์ ผลของการ
ทำความเข้าใจความต้องการของผู้ป่วยในเรื่องการติดต่อภัยคุยโดยทั่วไป 67% เลือกตอบว่ามีผลการ
ปรับปรุง 75% ในสัดส่วนผู้บริบาล คือการฉีดวัคซีนคือการลดการติดต่อภัยคุย
ระหว่างส่งผู้ป่วยสู่สถานที่ทำให้ได้รับการคัดกรอง ซึ่งข้อมูลเป็นข้อเท็จจริงข้อมูลที่มีผู้ป่วย
ทั้งหมดที่ต้องการที่จะได้รับการช่วยเหลือการคัดกรองภัยคุยสู่สถานที่ทำให้ได้รับการ
ในโรงพยาบาลภายใน ซึ่งต้องมีการใช้สูงสุดในการตรวจด้านภูมิคุ้มกัน.
The main purpose of rubella immunization is the eradication of congenital rubella syndrome. The majority of medical personnel are female in reproductive age. Those personnel with negative rubella antibody are at risk of developing rubella infection during pregnancy. It is not known whether screening for rubella antibody first and vaccinate only those with negative antibody is more cost benefit than routine vaccination without screening.

137 volunteer female medical personnel have had their blood drawn for rubella antibody before vaccination with attenuated live virus strain Wistar RA 27/3, human diploid cells. All direct and indirect costs are calculated in order to analyze the cost-benefit of each program.

The results indicated that the prevalence of positive rubella antibody was 67%. About 17 of the vaccines, with and without antibody against rubella experienced side-effects, most of them were mild. From the perspective of hospital administrator, routine rubella vaccination without screening has more cost-benefit than screening before vaccinating only those who are susceptible.

Rubella is a well known viral disease which typically manifests as a self-limited benign disease characterized by erythematous maculopapular rash, low grade fever, suboccipital lymphadenopathy and mild upper respiratory symptoms.

The major concern of this disease is that it can cause a serious and often fatal congenital rubella syndrome in newborns, especially when the infection occurs during the first trimester of pregnancy. The syndrome when occurs can result in psychological decline of the family as well as the economical lost to the family and the society.

The first report of a rubella outbreak in Thailand was in 1967-68 while the last reported epidemic occurred in 1983-84.

It has been known both in foreign countries and Thailand that epidemics have recurred every 6-9 years, thus there is likely to be another epidemic in the years 1989-1990. Hospital personnel are among the groups known to be at risk of this contagious disease (Prevalence of immunity among hospital personnel is approximately 70-75%).4,6 An outbreak of rubella among hospital personnel are of particular concern for two reasons:

Firstly, there are large numbers of women of reproductive age in this occupation and they are at high risk of exposure to rubella during an outbreak. The major concern is given particularly to those in early gestation; secondly, due to the nature of their work, there is a significant risk that health care personnel could transmit rubella to susceptible pregnant patients, therefore it is reasonable to provide the vaccine to those personnel. The efficacy of rubellar vaccine has been reported, however the side effect of this vaccine has not been evaluated in economic jargon before.

In order to protect these personnel from acquiring rubella during pregnancy and prevent transmission of the disease, it is necessary to vaccinate susceptible personnel.5,9 It is not known whether routine vaccination without screening (program I) would be more cost-benefit than a screening prior to vaccination. (program II) in terms of unnecessary absence from work due to side effect of the vaccine.

The objective of this study was to compare the cost-benefit of two programs of rubella vaccination among hospital personnel from the perspective of a hospital policy makers.

Materials and Methods

Subjects : 137 female volunteer medical personnel of reproductive age working at Siriraj Hospital, Khon Kaen University, in Northeast Thailand. Exclusion criteria included pregnant, sterilized or hysterectomized women, or having history of rubella vaccination. Although there was
no conclusive evidence that vaccination during pregnancy could cause congenital rubella syndrome[9], the vaccinees were informed that they should not become pregnant within three months following vaccination. If pregnancy was suspected, the vaccination was withheld until the next menstruation.

Procedure: All medical personnel had approximately 5 millilitres of venous blood drawn for rubella antibody titre by a hemagglutination inhibition test. Immediately after the blood sample was taken the subjects were vaccinated with 0.5 millilitre of live attenuated virus vaccine against rubella (Wyatar RA 2713 M strain cultured on human diploid cells) injected subcutaneously. In this study, we assumed that the efficacy of vaccination is 100%.

Laboratory method: Rubella hemagglutination inhibition test (HI test) was performed. The protective serum hemagglutination inhibition antibody titre is the 1:10 dilution or more of serum which show complete inhibition of hemagglutination.

Adverse effects of vaccination and work absentee were measured by self report and confirmed by the principal investigator (P. Tansananavisut)

Outcome measurements:

1. Costs

1.1 Costs of rubella antibody titre test or screening test will include costs of rubella antigen, equipment, personnel, syringe, needle and alcohol. (Table 1)

1.2 Costs of rubella vaccination were estimated for both single and multiple doses vials, also the cost of needle, syringe, alcohol and personnel were included. The multiple doses vial could be used to vaccinate 8 cases instead of 10 cases as initially intended to. (Table 1)

2. Benefit

When assuming that the efficacy of the vaccine is 100%, the main point of concern of the hospital policy makers would be the amount of work loss resulting from implementation of a vaccination program comparing to the costs. Thus the work loss of the program is the disbenefit of that program. Therefore calculated amount of benefit of each program is assigned as a negative value, before analysis for cost-benefit of the two programs.

Results

1. Costs

1.1 Costs of screening test was estimated at 32.2 baht per case. (Table 1) (Details of calculation are available on request to Dr. W. Kosuwan)

1.2 Costs of Rubella vaccination

The current cost for a single dose vial rubella vaccine is 27 baht/case and for multiple doses vial is 9.5 baht/case.

When the costs of syringes, needles, and alcohol were included in the calculation, the total vaccination cost per person was 29.3 baht for a single dose vial vaccine and 11.81 baht for multiple dose vial vaccine. (Table 1)

From Table 1, costs were calculated:

Costs of program I (without screening):

When single dose vaccine was used the cost per 100 subjects was 29.31 × 100 = 2931 baht

When multiple dose vial was used

The cost per 100 subject was

= 11.81 × 100

= 1181 baht

Costs of program II (with screening test):

Total cost of screening per 100 subjects was

29.23 × 100 = 2923 baht

From 137 subjects, only 49 of them were non immune, hence need vaccination (36%).

Therefore only 33 from 100 subjects would be vaccinated.

The cost of vaccination

When single dose vaccine was used

33 × 29.31 = 967.32

(4)
When multiple doses vial was used
\[ 33 \times 11.81 = 389.73 \]  
\[ (5) \]
Therefore,
The costs of program II per 100 subjects:
When single dose vaccine was used
\[ = (3) + (4) \]
\[ 3223 + 967.32 = 4190.32 \text{ bath} \]  
\[ (6) \]
When multiple doses vial was used
\[ = (3) + (5) \]
\[ 3223 + 389.73 = 3612.73 \text{ bath} \]  
\[ (7) \]
Work loss
A total of 31 adverse effects of vaccination were reported in 23 cases. Almost all of these were mild including fever, myalgia, headache, rash and local skin reaction at the injection site. One workday lost was noted because of headache and myalgia. (table 2) The data were analysed to assess whether there were any significant differences in the frequency of adverse reactions due to vaccination between the non-immune and to the immune groups. A Chi-square test showed no statistically significant difference between the two groups. (table 3)

From the decision tree (fig 1) screening before vaccination showed that 33% of this group were non immune cases. About sixteen percent (16.78%) of the vaccinated subjects (23/137) experienced adverse reactions but only 4.4% of them (2/3) were absent from work for one day. Based on the statistical test of significance that the adverse reaction between the two programs had no statistically significant difference, the chance of work absence was calculated as equal in both programs. The cost of work loss was calculated from the average salary of the personnel (3500 bath/month) plus 50% of the salary as a fringe benefit. (2100 bath/month) there were average 22 working days per month, thus one workday loss was 254.5 bath (560022) for a total vaccine of 137. From the decision tree the cost of work loss or disbenefit of program I would be
\[ 254.5 \times 0.0437 \times 0.1678 \times 0.33 \times 100 = 61.58 \text{ Bath/100 cases} \]
\[ (8) \]
program 2 would be
\[ 254.5 \times 0.0437 \times 0.1678 \times 0.33 \times 100 = 61.58 \text{ Bath/100 cases} \]
\[ (9) \]
From this cost benefit analysis equation \[ (10) \] \[(\text{Cost 1-Cost 2}) \times (\text{Benefit 1-Benefit 2}) = \text{CBA} \]

The cost benefit analysis of the two programs, single dose vial vaccines and multiple doses vial vaccines, was done.

When single dose vaccine will be used for vaccination 100 subjects the cost benefit analysis will be
\[ \text{Cost I = Cost of program I = 2932 bath from (1)} \]
\[ \text{Cost II = Cost of program II = 4190.32 bath from (6)} \]
Benefit I = work lost in program I = 186.62 bath from (8)
Benefit II = work lost in program II = 61.58 bath from (9)
There fore the CBA will be
\[ (2931 - 4190.32) - (186.62 - (-61.58)) = -1134.28 \]
That is program I is cost benefit than program II and would have save for the hospital about 1134 bath per 100 vaccinates when single dose vaccine is used.

If multiple dose vial vaccine will be used instead.
From (2), (7), (8) and (9) the CBA will be
\[ (1181 - 3612.73) - (186.62 - (-61.58)) = -2306.69 \]
That is Program 1 is cost benefit than program II and the hospital would have save about 2306 bath per 100 vaccinates when multiple doses vial is used (table 4). From the hospital's executive's viewpoint thus it is cost benefit to give routine vaccination without screening for rubella antibody compared to a policy of screening first for the presence of antibody then vaccinating only those who are non immune.
Discussion

From the result above there may be one question to be raised. That is sample size of the study is too small to yield enough power to detect any difference of adverse reactions among the immune and non immune cases if there is actually any difference. Therefore the calculation of cost benefit analysis based on the equal chance of adverse reaction may be inappropriate.

In order to test whether the program I was still cost benefit comparing to program II if the rates of adverse reactions were not the same. An estimation was done, given that adverse reactions among those non-immune cases was 29%2-3 and the adverse reaction is expected to be 50% higher in the immune cases. That is the adverse reaction was 30% among immune cases. While the work loss rate remained to be 4.37% of the total adverse reactions. Thus a new decision tree will be as figure II

Cost of work loss in program I would be

\[
(254.5 \times 0.0437 \times 0.2 \times 0.33) + (254.5 \times 0.0437 \times 0.3 \times 0.67) 
= 73.40 + 223.54
= 296.94 \text{ Baht/100 cases}
\]

Cost of work loss in program II would be

\[
254.5 \times 0.0437 \times 0.2 \times 0.33 \times 100 = 73.40 \text{ Baht/100 cases}
\]

The costs of work loss have not remarkably changed when the immune rate has changed.

Therefore program I was still cost benefit comparing to program II despite different rates of adverse reactions among the two programs.

When includes the cost of workloss into the present cost of vaccination per each program, it is clearly seen that the cost of screening (32.23 Baht/case) is still much higher than vaccination by multiple dose vaccine (13.81 + 1.86 = 15.67 Baht/case) and is slightly higher than single dose vaccine (29.31 + 0.61 = 29.92 Baht/case). Therefore, at any rubella susceptibility rate it is always cost minimized to give rubella vaccine at the present costs, without screening. Regardless any types of vaccine will be used.

In order to generalize the results of this study to other hospital settings, we have to consider the cost of screening test which will be much varied among different hospitals. This study was carried out in the medical school hospital where it is more likely to have more tests to be done per laboratory setting, which results in decreasing in cost per test when compare to other smaller hospitals where there are fewer tests to be done. Accordingly, it is clearly seen that the costs of screening test will be lower at this medical school hospital than other provincial or smaller hospitals. That is the cost of program 2 will be higher at other smaller hospitals. Therefore the program 1 should have even more cost benefit than program 2 when it is implemented in those smaller hospital settings.

Conclusion

For hospital personnel and from the perspective of hospital executive, routine rubella vaccination without screening has more cost benefit than screening for the presence of antibody then vaccinating only those who are susceptible regardless which type of rubella vaccine being used, and at any rubella susceptible rate among hospital personnel.

Acknowledgement

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teered to participate to make the study possible; to Khon Kaen Clinical Epidemiology Unit personnel for preparing this manuscript. We also thank the Rockefeller Foundation for some partially funding that has made the study possible.

Figure 1 DECISION TREE OF THE TWO PROGRAMS OF VACCINATION.

Figure 2 DECISION TREE OF THE TWO PROGRAMS OF VACCINATION WHEN THERE ARE DIFFERENCE IN SIDE EFFECTS AMONG VACCINES.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COSTS OF VACCINATION (BAHT/CASE)</th>
<th>SINGLE DOSE VACCINE</th>
<th>MULTIPLE DOSES VACCINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VACCINE</td>
<td>27 / CASE</td>
<td>9.5 / CASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEEDLE, SYRINGE &amp; ALCOHOL</td>
<td>2.311</td>
<td>2.311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td><strong>29.31</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.81</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| COSTS OF SCREENING (BAHT/CASE)   |                      |
| REAGENTS USED IN RUBELLA HI TEST | 20                   |
| EQUIPMENT                        | 12.23                |
| TOTAL                            | **32.23**            |

Table 1 COST OF VACCINATION AND SCREENING.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADVERSE EFFECTS</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MYALGIA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEVER</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAINT RASH</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEADACHE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL REACTION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORK ABSENCE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 ADVERSE EFFECTS IN 23 SUBJECTS.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADVERSE REACTIONS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PRESENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMUNED SUBJECTS</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-IMMUNE SUBJECTS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \chi^2 \text{ 1df } = 1.69 \quad P > 0.10 \]

Table 3 ADVERSE EFFECTS IN IMMUNED AND NON-IMMUNE SUBJECTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COST (BAHT/100 SUBJECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SINGLE DOSE VACCINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULTIPLE DOSE VACCINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENEFIT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS EQUATION (CBA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( (\text{COST I} - \text{COST II}) - (\text{BENEFIT I} - \text{BENEFIT II}) )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULTS (BAHT/100 CASE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SINGLE DOSE VACCINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULTIPLE DOSE VACCINE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE VACCINATION PROGRAMS AND THE RESULTS.
REFERENCES


