Editorial

Dear Readers,

At the outset, on behalf of the entire editorial team of ijopp, I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year 2019.

Over the last three decades, India has become a hub of vaccine manufacturing with state-of-the-art facilities at par with the International manufacturing standards. India is now producing vaccine products which are available in both domestic and international markets. This warrant additional responsibility of vigilance of vaccine products.

National Regulatory Authorities (NRA) are responsible for ensuring that all vaccines, used within the country are of quality, effective and safe. A National immunization programme (NIP) is the organizational component of Ministry of Health responsible for preventing disease, disability, and death from vaccine-preventable diseases in children and adults.

Like the NRA, the NIP is responsible for the delivery of safe, effective vaccines of high quality to the population.

The NRA releases vaccines for public use and the NIP assumes responsibility for the safe storage, handling, delivery and administration of these vaccines.

Adverse event following immunization is any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunization and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of the vaccine. If not rapidly and effectively dealt with, can undermine confidence in a vaccine and ultimately have negative consequences for immunization coverage and lead to disease incidence.

The Pharmacovigilance Programme of India has the responsibility to collate the data received from the various Adverse Drug Reactions monitoring centres and share the adverse reactions reported for vaccines to (i) District Immunization Officer (DIO), (ii) State AEFI (Adverse events following immunization) Committee and (iii) the National AEFI Committee for examination and recommendation.

The results of the cases with ADRs (if any) discussed in the Signal Review Panel of the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI) will be shared with AEFI Secretariat and CDSCO.

When an Adverse event following immunization (AEFI) happens, it is the health care professionals administering vaccines who have the responsibility to report. They need to report it through Suspected Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting Form. The NIP should also work in collaboration with National Pharmacovigilance Centres on the collection and assessment of AEFI data.

Immunizations are crucial to protecting patients from developing and dying from vaccine-preventable diseases, and in order to be successful, a team effort is required for all health care professionals to increase immunizations.

Pharmacists are in a pivotal position to increase awareness about the importance of vaccinations and identify those patients who may benefit from specific vaccinations.

Clinical pharmacists can play an active and important role in the vaccine safety programs and report any ADRs due to vaccines to the PVPI centres.

Therefore, our Pharm.D students can involve actively in monitoring the ADRs due to vaccines and contribute to the National Vaccine Safety program.

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