

Acute Toxicity of Vitamin A Administered with Measles Immunization

In the recent article(1), authors have diagnosed vitamin A toxicity after measles immunization on the basis of bulging anterior fontanelle within 24 h of intake of 1,00,000 IU of Vitamin A given along with measles vaccine. They have not estimated vitamin A levels or demonstrated any other change of vitamin A toxicity such as liver enzymes, hematological indices or tests for bone changes. Without this, it is difficult to establish unequivocally the causal association between Vitamin A supplementation and bulging anterior fontanelle(2). Further, can just three suspected cases be enough to reconsider the recommendation of Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme(3)?

In a similar study from Bangladesh(2), a double blind, randomized, placebo controlled trial was conducted in 167 patients less than six months. The authors concluded that bulging anterior fontanelle and administration of Vitamin A with vaccination

is only suggestive of a causal association. They concluded that further studies are required to understand clinical significance of these episodes of bulging anterior fontanelle. Bulging anterior fontanelle was seen in two children who received placebo instead of Vitamin A. Hence bulging fontanelle cannot be used as the sole criterion to diagnose Vitamin A toxicity.

Anju Aggarwal,

*Department of Pediatrics,
Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital,
Lady Hardinge Medical College,
New Delhi 110 001.*

REFERENCES

1. Gomber S, Chellani H. Acute toxicity of vitamin A administered with measles vaccine. *Indian Pediatr* 1996; 33: 1053-1055.
2. Baqui AH, Francisco A, Arifeen SE, Siddique AK, Sack RB. Bulging fontanelle after supplementation of 25,000 IU of Vitamin A in infancy using immunization contacts. *Acta Pediatr* 1995; 84: 863-866.
3. Control of Vitamin A Deficiency. *Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme*, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, 1991.