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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
4522	11.02.2018	12.02.2018	Mandya Karnataka	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/2-babies-die-in-mandya-after-vaccination-7-recovering/articleshow/62868585.cms
Title:	2 babies die in Mandya district of Karnataka after vaccination; 7 recovering			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Mandya, SSU-Karnataka			

Two toddlers died and seven others are undergoing treatment at the Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences in Mandya, about 100km from Bengaluru, after they were administered the pentavalent vaccine which fights five diseases on Friday. Preetam, 2, and Bhuvan, 2, died after they were given the vaccine at an anganwadi centre on Friday at Chindagiri Doddi village, about 3km from Mandya. While Bhuvan died on Friday night, Preetam succumbed to possible side-effects of the vaccine on Saturday.

Seven children, who fell ill after being administered the vaccine, are being treated at MIMS. According to District Health Officer Dr Mohan, the children may have died due to side-effects of the vaccine.

"There is a possibility that within 48 hours of administering the pentavalent vaccine, it can cause adverse side-effects. As per preliminary investigation, one deceased child was suffering from fever and the other had a low platelet count. We administered the pentavalent vaccine to more 2,500 children across the district and no health problem was reported," he said.

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Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054

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एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Mohan said the other children are stable and out of danger. Separate teams comprising medical and paramedical staff have been formed to monitor the situation and they've been dispatched across the district to take actions if anything amiss surfaces, he said. A paediatrician told STOI that except for children refusing to drink milk, their condition is stable and they're being constantly monitored. "We were told by anganwadi workers who administered the vaccine that it was taken from a single vial and given to all nine children. We should send that vial and blood samples to a laboratory for scientific examination as it'll shed light on what went wrong," he said.

Dr P L Nataraj, director, department of health and family welfare, said, "An inquiry has been initiated against the anganwadi staff and Accredited Social Health Activists (part of the National Health Mission) who administered the vaccines, but no immediate action has been taken." He added that the vaccines were supplied by the Union health ministry. "We have started an inquiry by a committee which has experts from all fields, including paediatricians. We'll get the report at the earliest," he said, adding that vaccination is being continued in other villages of the district but will be stopped if any problems are reported

"Instructions have been given to immediately stop using vaccines of that particular batch till further directions. The same vaccination has been used for babies across the state and no cases of adverse effect were seen elsewhere. Hence, parents must not panic," he added.

Parents protest

Parents and villagers protested in front of MIMS, shouting slogans against the health department. Parents alleged that health officers and doctors are trying to cover up their mistake. "The doctors are claiming that the two dead children were suffering from one disease or the other disease and died because of it. Why then did the other seven children fall ill?" they asked. Protesters urged the government to give monetary compensation to families of the victims.

"We'll decide on compensation to the bereaved families after we get the complete medical report of the cause of death. Health and family welfare department director Nataraju met district officers and instructed them to take necessary steps to treat the children as well as take precautionary measures if more such incidents are reported in the district," said deputy commissioner N Manjushree.

Pall of gloom

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A pall of gloom descended on Chindagiri Doddi and neighbouring villages. Grief-stricken parents brought their seemingly healthy children to nearby hospitals and doctors for a medical checkup as news of the deaths spread like wildfire. There was a rush at paediatricians as parents were worried about the vaccination programme.

"I brought my 3-year-old child to a pediatrician because my child was too administered that vaccine. Even though my child did not show any side-effects, I didn't wanted to take a chance," said Sowmya, a homemaker. Mandya MP C S Puttaraju pacified grieving parents and villagers at MIMS premises on Saturday.

Rathan Kelkar, commissioner, health and family welfare department, said the entire batch of pentavalent vaccine has been withdrawn from Mandya district and samples sent for a lab test. "We have sent P L Nataraj, director, department of health and family welfare, to Mandya and informed the Union health ministry. The World Health Organisation representative for the state is also in Mandya," he said.

"A district-level technical committee on vaccines met in Mandya on Saturday afternoon and discussed the incident. It didn't get any clarity on the cause of death. Once we get the lab reports, we'll get clear information," he said.

Instructions were given to conduct the autopsy of the deceased babies as per the guidelines of 'Adverse event following immunization' (AEFI). "The post mortem report and sample of the particular vaccine will be sent to the Central Drug Testing Laboratory (CDTL) in Kausali, Chandigarh for further tests," said an official release from the health department. CDTL is an advance lab engaged in testing vaccines.

What is Pentavalent vaccine?

Pentavalent vaccine provides protection to a new born baby from five life-threatening diseases such as diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, hepatitis B and influenza B. The vaccine, which contains five different vaccines in single vial is part of the Universal Immunisation Programme. It's administered in three doses to the new born in at 6, 10 and 14 weeks.

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