Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

MHRA
Regulating Medicines and Medical Devices

[redacted]

MHRA

10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU
United Kingdom

www.gov.uk/mhra

12th September 2023

Dear [redacted]

FOI 23/602

Thank you for your email dated 13th August 2023, where you asked:

- Please could I be provided with the up-to-date statistics for adverse side effects in babies after receiving the 6-in-1 vaccination.

I can confirm that the MHRA has received 680 UK spontaneous suspected adverse reaction reports associated with the 6-in-1 vaccination, also known as the DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB vaccine up to and including the 29th August 2023. Please find attached a Vaccine Analysis Print (VAP) which lists all the reactions reported to the MHRA in association with the DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB vaccine. Also attached is a guidance sheet which provides you with further information on how to interpret the print.

When considering the attached spontaneous data, it is important to be aware of the following points:

- A reported reaction does not necessarily mean it has been caused by the vaccine, only that the reporter had a suspicion it may have. Each year, millions of doses of routine vaccinations are given in the UK alone, and when any vaccine is administered to large numbers of people, some recipients will inevitably experience illness following vaccination. The fact that symptoms occur after use of a vaccine or medicine, and are reported via the Yellow Card scheme, does not in itself mean that they are proven to have been caused by it. Underlying or concurrent illnesses may be responsible and such events can also be coincidental.

- The number of reports received via the Yellow Card scheme does not directly equate to the number of people who suffer adverse reactions and therefore cannot be used to determine the incidence of a reaction or compare the safety profile of different vaccines. ADR reporting rates are influenced by the seriousness of ADRs, their ease of recognition, the extent of use of a particular medicine or vaccine and may be stimulated by promotion and publicity about a drug.

As these data do not necessarily refer to proven side effects, you should refer to the product information which can be found here: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/ for details on the possible side effects of each vaccine.

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The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) continuously monitors the safety of vaccines through a variety of pharmacovigilance processes including the Yellow Card scheme. As part of our signal detection processes all adverse reaction reports received by the Yellow Card scheme are individually assessed and cumulative information reviewed at regular intervals. If appropriate, regulatory action would be taken if any serious risks were confirmed.

I hope the information provided is helpful, but if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of this response; and can be addressed to this email address.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team,
Vigilance and Risk Management of Medicines Division