Evaluating children with suspected allergic reactions to vaccines

Although vaccines are generally recognized as one of the most important public health interventions for the prevention of illness and the reason for the eradication of many severe infectious diseases, they sometimes may induce allergic or adverse reactions that contribute to parental concerns and hesitancy on the use of immunizations for their children. These concerns seem to be increasing due to the influence and popularity of social media and exposure to online antivaccination sentiment. In a recent report, Franceschini and colleagues from the “Ospedali Riuniti” University Hospital, Ancona, Italy, provided evidence on allergic reactions to vaccines for infectious diseases and offered a set of guidelines for a practical approach for the assessment and management of children with suspected allergic reactions to a vaccine.

Who or What Was Proposed to Be Studied?

Information was obtained from a search of guidelines and relevant studies on allergic reactions to vaccines for infectious diseases.

How Was the Study Done?

The guidelines were developed by using published reports supplemented by the authors’ clinical experience.

What Are the Limitations of the Proposed Study?

The report is subject to limitations inherent to the adequacy of the survey methodology.

What Are the Implications of the Study?

This report offers a practical set of guidelines for the careful evaluation of routine allergy tests of children with a suspected allergic reaction to vaccine. When necessary, further immunization should be given under strict medical surveillance to ensure successful completion of the vaccination schedule. The development and implementation of these types of guidelines should help to allay parental concerns and promote confidence in immunization.