

# INFLUENCE VACCINES: MIRACLES, ERRORS AND BUSINESS<sup>1</sup>

Juan Gérvas. GP, MD, PhD

Equipo CESCA, Madrid, Spain

[jgervasc@meditex.es](mailto:jgervasc@meditex.es) [www.equipocesca.org](http://www.equipocesca.org)

## SUMMARY

The flu vaccine is useless. The Cochrane Library has reviewed it and concludes with no doubts about its lack of efficacy. But professionals and the public are advised to be vaccinated, to get a mass vaccination. This proposal lacks science and ethics.

## SOME FACTS

### **1.- According to flu vaccine propaganda, is not a flu vaccine but de facto a miracle vaccine**

Propaganda refers that flu vaccine reduces up to 88% sickness absent of health professionals. But most cases of "flu" are not really "flu", but "flu-like-syndrome". Sentinel physicians, especially trained in the diagnosis of influenza, are fully right about the diagnosis (with flu virus confirmation) between 15 to 25% of cases. That is, about 80% of cases of "flu" are not caused by flu virus.

If the effectiveness of the vaccines was 100% only could prevent 20% of sickness absent (the "flu" cases that have a flu cause, an infection by flu virus).

The percentages that propaganda refers are miracles, errors or business? To answer this question have a look to the sponsors of events, lectures and texts about the flu vaccine.

They talk about the halving of mortality among the vaccinated.

That is, reduces mortality by 50%. It seems that half of patients at risk not will die if vaccinated.

Taking Spain as an example, every day a thousand people die (about 400.000 a year) for all causes.

That data about flu vaccines effectiveness suggests that could removes thousands of deaths per year.

But flu deaths in total per season in Spain are around 1,500 or less

<http://scielo.isciii.es/pdf/gv/v20n1/revision.pdf>

---

<sup>1</sup> This text is licensed under [Creative Commons by-nc-sa 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/), so you can remix, tweak, and build upon it noncommercially, as long as you credit the author and license your new creations under the identical terms ([complete license text](#)).

So in case of 100% effectiveness, the vaccine could avoid 750 deaths per year in Spain.

In fact, effectiveness of the flu vaccine is less than 5%

<http://jid.oxfordjournals.org/content/201/2/186.full.pdf+html>

So at best the vaccine could prevent 75 deaths (1.5 per million Spaniards). At the cost of vaccinating millions of people and serious complications such as Guillain Barré syndrome (1.6 cases per million vaccinated). The benefit is not obvious. Harms are certain

<http://www.bmj.com/content/340/bmj.c2419.full> (Australia, children)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/343/bmj.d5956.full.pdf> (Sweden-Finland, others and narcolepsy)

Take a look to the sponsors of the Influenza Specialists Group to understand the question. For example in Australia and New Zealand

<http://www.influenzaspecialistgroup.org.au/sponsorship-and-support>

## **2.- Cochrane reviews of influenza vaccines**

Conclusions of a Cochrane review of 2010 is that in healthy adults influenza vaccine no prevents complications (pneumonia, for example), nor hospitalizations, nor sick leave, and no decreases disease transmission between humans <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20614424>

Influenza vaccination of health professionals working with the elderly does not diminished pneumonia, no deaths or cases of flu in patients, also discussed in a Cochrane review <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20166073>

Vaccination against influenza in the elderly (65 years) has not demonstrated either efficacy or effectiveness, according to a Cochrane review <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20166072>

In healthy children under two years, influenza vaccine is useless, as demonstrated a Cochrane review in 2008. In the greatest effectiveness for symptoms in oldest children can be of 33% as much <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18425905>

Vaccination in children does not prevent hospitalizations for influenza and its complications, and has almost no effect against the transmission of influenza in the community (or the effect are inconsistent and few) <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=2605>

Indeed, you do not know if they sell miracles, disseminate errors or do business.

### **3.- Abstracts of papers about the effectiveness of flu vaccines are biased**

It has been shown that studies on influenza vaccine effectiveness distort the summary of the scientific publication, so that is positive, sometimes contrary to the results included in the article itself. That is, the abstract is almost always favourable, though the data are not much (or anything).

Many doctors only read the summary, which leads to a favourable impression on the effectiveness of influenza vaccine. Strange but true: [www.bmj.com/content/338/bmj.b354.full](http://www.bmj.com/content/338/bmj.b354.full)

### **4.- Because almost 100% dominance of swine flu virus [pandemic (A/California/7/2009/H1N1)], we knew that the flu seasonal vaccine 2009-10 was useless, but millions were vaccinated**

We have no doubt about the total lack of effect of the flu seasonal vaccine 2009-10, both because the almost 100% dominance of swine flu virus and because the Australian experience <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=19288>

In Spain, several of us warned about harms without benefits with the seasonal vaccine of September 2009, when we knew it was useless to swine flu pandemic.

<http://vicentebaos.blogspot.com/2009/09/hayquevacunardelagripeestacional.html>

<http://www.equipocesca.org/actividades-preventivas/gripe-a-paciencia-y-tranquilidad/>

However, the Spanish population was vaccinated, frightened by the swine flu pandemic, with the 2009-10 seasonal vaccine, knowing it was useless. Millions were also vaccinated unnecessarily around the world.

### **5.- Vaccines are losing credibility, and anti-vaccine groups are growing.**

There are vaccines and vaccines. Some are key to public health, such as smallpox, measles, rabies or tetanus. Others are of doubtful utility as human papillomavirus. Others are clearly useless as influenza ones.

The abuses of those who preach miracles, disseminate errors and make business are discrediting all vaccines.

Specifically we need long-term clinical trials for influenza vaccines. We will continue year to year without being able to decide on effectiveness:

<http://www.equipocesca.org/wpcontent/uploads/2010/05/gripeamayo2010incoherenciasfaltatranspar>

[encia.pdf](#)

<http://www.equipoceca.org/actividades-preventivas/gripe-a-mejor-la-enfermedad-que-la-vacuna-swine-flu-vaccination-better-natural-immunity-than-artificial-one>

In 2011 the proposal is to use the same content that in 2010, demonstrating their lack of immunity:

<http://www.equipoceca.org/uso-apropiado-de-recursos/vacuna-contrala-gripe-2011-2012-una-vacuna-terminator-mas-razones-para-el-no-razonable-de-profesionales-y-pacientes-flu-vaccine-2011-2012-a-terminator-vaccine-more-reason-to-say-a-reasonabl/>

Promoting ineffective vaccines bears a responsibility.

#### **6.- As expected, lack of effectiveness against the H1N1 (swine flu, 2009) of the seasonal vaccine 2008-9**

Seasonal flu vaccine 2008-9 contained antigens against influenza H1N1 virus and therefore could expect an effect to the swine flu pandemic of 2009. But that was only possible if it had effectiveness. As expected, the studies confirm its lack of effect:

<http://scielo.isciii.es/pdf/gsv25n1/original4.pdf>

#### **7. The "natural experiment" of the H1N1 (swine flu, 2009), Poland versus the world demonstrates the futility of swine flu vaccine**

There was a vaccine against influenza H1N1, swine flu 2009 (A/California/7/2009/H1N1), the pandemic that "hit" the world with the panic caused by the WHO, Ministries and Departments. The vaccine against H1N1 (swine flu, 2009) was in use in November 2009, against the opinion of some <http://www.equipoceca.org/actividadespreventivas/gripeaohorazonesperanovacunarse/>

The "natural experiment" of Poland versus the world has allowed to verify the absurdity of vaccinated against influenza. The Minister of Health of Poland refused in 2009 to sign contracts with laboratories manufacturing the vaccine against influenza H1N1, swine flu 2009, by its terms (harmful to public health). Consequently, Poland's population was not vaccinated. In Poland there were 181 dead by influenza H1N1, for 39 million inhabitants. By contrast, in Spain, for example, where managed to vaccinating 2 million people, there were 271 deaths (for 47 million inhabitants). In other countries around the world there are similar figures.

The swine flu vaccine was useless, like all flu vaccines.

It was also useless (point 4, above) the seasonal flu vaccine in September 2009. In that year the

population was subjected to two flu vaccinations in September (flu seasonal) and November (swine flu, influenza H1N1).

No one has been prosecuted by these decisions.

We still lacks clinical trials to scientifically assess the efficiency and effectiveness of flu vaccines: Gervas flu vaccines J, Wright J. *Future of flu vaccines: please, may we have a RTC now?* BMJ. 2009, 339: b4651 <http://www.bmj.com/content/339/bmj.b4651.extract?sid=44bfb73897c1488ab9f944a23029b82b>

But they threatened us again in 2011 with a worst pandemic of influenza, H2N2 (Asian flu) for which calls for immediate vaccination of all people, even those who have antibodies because born before the seventies of last century

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v471/n7337/full/471157a.html>

<http://www.equipocesca.org/usoapropiadoderecursos/flu2n2mortalityandvaccination/>

The flu virus causes nearly lifelong immunity.

The vaccine causes immunity for a year, at most.

## **8. The ethical of health professionals is not to be vaccinated, and ask their patients not to vaccinated**

The flu vaccination contradicts all medical principles, especially not to harm, the basic principle of Medicine (*primum non nocere*). Those who call for vaccination (even mandatory!) of health professionals ignore all the scientific literature, especially reviews of the Cochrane Library, the most prestigious in Medicine.

Influenza vaccination is against the four principles of bioethics.

In practice, health professionals ignore the voices of politicians, professional associations (strongly linked to pharmaceutical industries), and scientists who make mistakes (at best) and no they do not vaccinated against influenza. They have good reasons.

The ethical answer for health professionals is not to be vaccinated against the flu, advise patients this behaviour and ask to speak to scientists who know and keep silent.