

Combination MMRV Vaccine Associated with Two-Fold Risk of Febrile Seizures Compared with Separate MMR & Varicella Vaccines

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OAKLAND, Calif., June 28 /PRNewswire/ -- The combination vaccine for measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox (MMRV) is associated with double the risk of febrile seizures for 1- to 2-year-old children compared with same-day administration of the separate vaccine for MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and the varicella (V) vaccine for chicken pox, according to a Kaiser Permanente Division of Research study appearing online in the journal *Pediatrics*. A febrile seizure is a brief, fever-related convulsion but it does not lead to epilepsy or seizure disorders, researchers explained.

Funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the study analyzed 459,000 children 12 to 23 months old from numerous health systems across the United States receiving their first dose of measles-containing vaccine and found MMRV to be associated with a two-fold increased risk of fever and febrile seizures 7-10 days after vaccination compared with same-day administration of a separate shot for MMR and the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. This study found that the risk for a febrile seizure after the first dose of MMRV vaccine is low, although it is higher than after MMR vaccine and varicella vaccine administered as separate injections.

The study found no evidence of an increased febrile seizure risk after any measles vaccine beyond 7-10 days post vaccination.

"Because the risk of febrile seizure is higher for the quadrivalent (combination) vaccine, providers recommending MMRV should communicate to parents that it increases the risk of fever and febrile seizure over that already associated with measles-containing vaccines," said the study's lead investigator Nicola Klein, MD, Ph.D., co-director of the Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center. "But concerned

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[1] <http://www.bio-medicine.org/medicine-technology-1/Combination-MMRV-Vaccine-Associated-with-Two-Fold-Risk-of-Febrile-Seizures-Compared-with-Separate-MMR--26amp-3B-Varicella-Vaccines-9449-1/>

