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E-Poster Viewing - May 7-10 - E-Poster Hours

Vaccine safety (post licensure)

MMR vaccination in Bitola, for or against

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Background and Aims:

In Republic of Macedonia vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella is compulsory. The aim of the study is to evaluate MMR vaccine coverage among children in Municipality of Bitola.

Methods:

In this paper, a retrospective analysis was performed over the data for MMR primary vaccination and re-vaccination coverage among children in Bitola for the period of 2008 to 2018.

Results:

The study was conducted in the Health Center in Bitola. During the analyzed period, out of 10.757 children who are subject to the vaccination, 10.473 or 97.36% were actually vaccinated. The MMR vaccination coverage has been continuously declining over the years, ranging from 99.8% to 90% in 2018. From the total number of 11,443 children, 98.72% or 11.296 have been re-vaccinated. The coverage percentage range from 100% to 92.2% of children.

Conclusions:

In Bitola, the MMR coverage among children was over 95%, with a decline to 90% in the last two years. The re-vaccination range also declined, but in 2018 it was 97%. This data is in line with the general vaccine trend throughout the country, especially in recent years. The fact that parents are more often in dilemma whether to vaccinate children or not is upsetting. Despite the legal obligation, parents may choose not to vaccinate their child. In recent years, due to increased anti-vaccine campaigns, and the open question about the possible association of this vaccine with autism, parents are increasingly refusing to vaccinate their children. For higher coverage with compulsory vaccination and prevention of epidemics, it is of crucial importance for the health workers and the government to take proactive approach regarding health education.