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VACCINE SHORTAGES AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR VACCINATION IN CHILDREN AGED <5 YEARS

Jose-Luis Diaz-Ortega

National Institute of Public Health, Mexico

Introduction: Missed opportunities for vaccination (MOV) are defined as non-application of one or more vaccine doses to eligible population for vaccination during a contact with health facilities. Because immunization coverage in some districts of the state of Oaxaca, Mexico is not optimal, author investigated the factors associated with MOVs, in children aged <5 years.

Methods: They performed a cross-sectional study in health facilities of two sanitary districts and interviewed the caregivers of 837 children who few minutes ago, had visited health facilities. Vaccines not applied to eligible children during this visit were considered MOVs. They estimated frequency of MOVs, as well as crude and adjusted odds ratios (ORs) to analyze factors associated with MOVs.

Results: Shortage of some vaccines was the main factor associated to MOV. Risk of MOVs was higher in children aged 1-4 years, than in children aged <1 year (OR 10.0, $p=0.001$). Children visiting health facilities for reasons different to vaccination had higher risks of MOVs than those who went for vaccination (OR 2.4, $p=0.0001$).

Conclusions: Major causes of MOVs were vaccine shortages, false contraindications and failure of health personnel to review children's immunization cards.

BIOGRAPHY

Jose-Luis Diaz-Ortega is a Medical Doctor (Epidemiologist and Immunologist). He serves as a Medical Sciences Investigator and as a Professor at the National Institute of Public Health (INSP). He has published 50 scientific articles and 16 book chapters or manuals.

jdiaz@insp.mx



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