

Idaho Experts Link Polio Cases With Vaccine Pending Completion of Tests

By UNITED PRESS
An experts' statement that Salk vaccine could be a contributing factor to 10 cases of infantile paralysis in Idaho highlighted mounting activity on the nation's polio front today.

Three public health experts announced that a week of research among Idaho's polio cases "strongly indicate a direct relation of the vaccine with the cases of polio which have been seen."

The 10 polio cases were among 32,000 Idaho children inoculated with Salk vaccine manufactured by the Cutter Laboratories of Berkeley, Calif. Two of the youngsters died and three are in critical condition.

Third Child Dies
Meanwhile, a third child died after receiving an inoculation of Cutter vaccine and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis announced that New York

and Washington had requested a delay in shipments of vaccine to them pending an investigation.

In Washington, President Eisenhower said he would ask Congress for power to distribute Salk vaccine free to the nation's children if it becomes evident any child is being unfairly deprived of it. His statement was coupled with an announcement that vaccine supplies have fallen nearly 7,000,000 doses behind estimates.

There have been 46 cases of polio following inoculations of Salk vaccine across the nation and in Hawaii. Up until the Idaho experts' statement, scientists had been unanimous in stressing that there was no evidence that the Salk vaccine was to blame.

The Idaho experts emphasized that their investigations will remain strictly circumstantial until completion of laboratory tests.

But they said the possible connection between Salk vaccine and the 10 Idaho cases was supported by four factors.

1. The disease struck in areas where there had been no previous polio cases since last fall.
2. Only children who had received the vaccine became ill in these areas.
3. The first signs of paralysis occurred in the arm, where the children had been vaccinated.
4. The paralysis developed first in the upper extremities, although the disease is usually first felt in the legs.

A 30-month-old New Orleans, La., boy meanwhile became the third child in the nation to die following an inoculation of Cutter vaccine. But doctors said they were sure the inoculation had no connection with his death.

Grandson of Famed Surgeon
E. Allen Davis Jr. was stricken

with bulbar polio Sunday, five days after he had been inoculated, and died Wednesday. Doctors pointed out that the incubation period for polio is 10 to 14 days.

The child was the grandson of a famed surgeon, Dr. Alton Ochsner.

In other states, health officials indicated a mounting desire to make sure about every detail of the Salk vaccine.

In California, meanwhile, the powerful State Medical Association issued a statement condemning the "contrived publicity" which accompanied the announcement of the Salk vaccine's effectiveness.

The association added it was by no means satisfied with the vaccine.

There have been 1,163 cases of polio, including seven deaths, across the nation this year, an unofficial check showed.

Advocates of 'Live Virus' Polio Vaccine Continue To Press Search

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York—(U.P.)—Despite the statistically proven success of the Salk "killed virus" vaccine against polio, scientific advocates of a "live virus" vaccine have by no means given up their search.

Dr. Albert B. Sabin, of the University of Cincinnati, a leading "live virus" scientist, indicated this group's continuing lack of faith in the "killed virus" approach to immunizing human beings against polio.

He described to the annual meeting of the American Association of Physicians in Atlantic City some of the results of his

experiments with a "live virus" vaccine in 26 inmates volunteers at the federal reformatory at Chillicothe, O., which had been previously reported by the United Press.

No Sign of Illness
The volunteers swallowed his "live" viruses in milk. All developed antibodies against the viruses, yet none developed any sign of illness. This, Dr. Sabin continued, was what happened in the vast majority of "natural" immunizations — we eat, but "live" viruses invaded the body, caused no illness, but bestowed life-long immunity.

Dr. Sabin described his experiments with the convicts again in

a lecture to the Phi Lambda Kappa fraternity at New York University.

It is a fact that non-virulent strains of polio viruses circulate in nature. Otherwise there wouldn't be so very many people who have polio virus antibodies in their blood chemistry without ever having been ill of polio.

Dr. Sabin is working with "attenuated" or mutant "live" viruses, seeking such non-virulent strains which can be depended upon to remain non-virulent. An "attenuated" virus is one which has been so weakened, usually by repeated "passages" through laboratory animals and test tube cultures, that it no longer causes disease.

Depends on Mutation
This weakening depends upon a natural phenomenon called mutation. When some of the offspring of a virulent virus are unlike their parent in being non-virulent instead of virulent, it is the result of mutation and the non-virulent viruses are mutants. They reproduce viruses which are non-virulent, too, and thus a non-virulent strain is established.

Dr. Sabin has produced such strains in his laboratory which have remained non-virulent through many "passages" through chimpanzees. These were the mutant strains which he tested in his 26 convict-volunteers. Dr. Sabin believes these strains are stable—that they won't change back into virulent forms.

Controversy Not Affected
His report emphasized the ruggedness of the long-continuing controversy in science between the "killed virus" and "live virus" approach to an effective vaccine against polio. The controversy was not affected by the Francis statistical study of the Salk "killed virus" vaccine which showed that it was 60 to 90 per cent effective.

It was not affected because the Francis report did not and could not deal with how long an immunity the Salk vaccine bestows. It is the contention of the "live virus" advocates that any immunity bestowed by a "killed virus" vaccine has to be short-lived. In nature, "live" viruses bestow life-long immunity—at the risk of disease. Therefore, they argue, there can be "no immunity like natural immunity."

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