

Salk Vaccine Said Designed To Prevent Polio Paralysis Instead of Infection

(Editor's note: This is the third of a series of five articles on what parents should know about the Salk polio vaccine. Under Dr. Van Riper's direction the National Foundation sponsored the research, development of the vaccine and he is in charge of the Foundation's program for vaccinating children in the first and second grades of school.)

By HART E. VAN RIPER, M.D.
Medical Director
National Foundation for
Infantile Paralysis

A story published the other day with the best of intentions by a great newspaper which prides itself on its accuracy began like this:

POLIO FOLLOWS SHOT

The seventh polio case in the city of a child who had received the Salk anti-polio vaccine was reported yesterday to the Board of Health.

Only toward the end of the story is the statement added: "... subsequently his case was diagnosed as non-paralytic polio."

Now, factually this story was correct. But we are a headline-conditioned people. Did you not, in fact, from this headline and opening sentence, feel a pang of doubt about the vaccine? And yet the truth may well have been exactly the opposite to the impression you got—that is, it is quite possible that the child would have had paralytic polio had it not been for his Salk vaccination.

Prevents Paralysis

The Salk vaccine is designed to prevent not polio infection but polio paralysis. In the future there will be many cases among vaccinated children of illness that turns out to be non-paralytic polio precisely because the Salk vaccine has prevented paralysis.

No wonder, then, that at this juncture — the "beginning of the end" of polio as a major scourge — there has been public confusion.

It is true that a few cases of paralytic polio have been reported among children who have received the vaccine. In some of these the vaccine would not have helped, simply because it doesn't protect everybody. In others the virus entered the system before the vaccination or before the vaccine had time to take effect. After the first shot an interval of seven to 10 days is necessary for the stimulation of antibody production; and even if administered in time, the one shot may not be enough to stave off paralytic polio, since it functions mainly as a sensitizer, making for more positive results from the second and booster shots.

Whether a vaccine is safe depends on the formula and then on whether it is made strictly according to that formula.

Safety Established

Safety of the Salk formula has been established beyond question. After exhaustive laboratory tests, Dr. Salk gave the vaccine to 9,000 children in Pittsburgh. In 1954, following approval by the Vaccine Advisory committee of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, it was given to 440,000 children in many parts of the country. This year, some 6,500,000 American children have received at least one shot under the program financed by the National Foundation.

In the manufacture of the Salk vaccine, exacting testing requirements fixed by the U. S. Public Health Service are followed from culture of the virus to final packaging of the vaccine. Finished vaccine is not released

for use until it has been approved by this federal agency.

With the demonstration of mass use and with the knowledge of strictest supervision in manufacture, you may rest assured that the vaccine is safe. But this does not mean that your child should be given the shots at any time and under all circumstances. There are exceptions.

Not Given During Illness

For example, the polio vaccine should not be given during the course of an acute illness of any sort. Nor should it be given to persons with certain symptoms, even though the illness may be only minor. Among these "stop" signals are fever, sore

throat and upset stomach.

No member of a household where a case of polio has just

been diagnosed should be vaccinated, since most family contacts harbor virus at this time.

If your child needs his tonsils out, your doctor may delay the operation until after the

polio vaccination — and after the polio season.

Barring special circumstances, on which you should consult your doctor, your child can be vaccinated against paralytic

polio with no more risk than one assumes in a smallpox vaccination or a typhoid shot.

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Hollywood's No. 1 party-giver these days is a man who tosses soirees for bulls, lions, goats and assorted movie-town celebrities.

This new social leader is Carroll Righter, a well-known astrologer. Since 1940 Righter has convinced a large section of Hollywood that the planets affect human life on earth, and his devoted customers include Marlene Dietrich, Bob Cummings, Hildegarde Neff, Van Johnson and others.

Zodiac Plays Role
Recently the astrologer decided to become the Elsa Maxwell of the zodiac set by giving a birthday party each month for movie colonists. Each gathering features a different sign of the zodiac with a symbolic animal as guest of honor.

Last July the "Leo" party had a real lion on hand. Goats mingled with the guests at the "Capricorn" party and a black bull quietly chewed the lawn during the "Taurus" affair. The two-footed guests included Rosemary Clooney, Rhonda Fleming, Arlene Dahl, David Niven and Peter Lawford.

"I give these parties because I love company," explained Righter. "I'm Aquarius — gregarious people, you know." So far the neighbors have not objected to the strange parties at Righter's home. But sometimes the other type of wild life gets out of hand.

Once Johnnie Ray teased a crocodile that was observing the party from behind a small wire fence in the living room. The reptile leaped over the fence and began chasing the guests.

At the Virgo party the guest of honor was a chicken, connection unexplained. It laid an egg in the hand of Hugh O'Brien.

"The only time an egg was laid at one of my parties," said Righter with a jovial ho-ho.

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