IMMUNIZATION AS AN EFFECTIVE MEASURE OF PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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The **aim** of paper is to present the movement of diseases against which obligatory immunization implemented in Belgrade for the period 1985-2009. and the results achieved in implementation of obligatory vaccination.

Methodology: The study used data of the Institute of Public Health of Belgrade, the movement of infectious diseases for the period 1985-2009 and reports of the results of implemented obligatory immunization.

Results: In Serbia, the obligatory immunization is conducted by the basis of the law on protection of population against infectious diseases: tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, morbilli, rubella, parotitis, hepatitisB and Haemophilus influenza B. Compulsory vaccination against diphtheria and tetanus in Serbia are carried out from 1946. The last case of diphtheria was registered in 1976, and tetanus neonatorum in 1982 when they were eliminated. Compulsory vaccination against poliomyelitis was implemented by the year 1961 and since 1963 has not registered a single case caused by wild Poliovirus in the territory of Belgrade. The average incidence of pertussis and morbilli in the last 5 years is less than 1/100.000 which presents the decrease of frequency for about 100 times. Immunization against parotitis has been implemented since 1981, against rubella since 1993 and has led to a reduction of incidence of these diseases for 10 -15 times. Immunization coverage is generally moving from 90-95%.

Conclusion: The success of the implementation of immunisation programs is being followed by reduction of morbidity from infectious diseases against which vaccines are used, and the coverage of the vaccination of the planned population.