20th May 2021

An open letter to all parents deciding to vaccinate or not to vaccinate their child.

We are a group of Singaporean Doctors, who are of the view that MOH should quickly approve a killed-virus vaccine for our children and adults. Here are our humble ponderings:

1/ Children: 99.99% do not need ICU when they catch Covid-19. According to a Senior Pediatrician (Dr Chandra Sekhar Devulapalli), this is likely due to NL63, an almost universal childhood common cold. This immunity is likely to be present in younger Singaporeans in the form of Memory T-Cells. Unfortunately, it wears out by about age 65. This explains why the population above this age frequently populates our ICU when they become very sick with Covid-19. The good news is that Children are doing amazingly well, without any Covid-19 vaccines.

2/ The two mRNA vaccines have been vigorously tested to be safe, but we know this is true only for the short term. We have no evidence that the mRNA vaccines are SAFE in the longer term (10-20 years). This is not a problem with those over 65, as the immediate benefits of vaccination for this high-risk group outweigh the risks of the unknown long-term side effects. For Children, however, it is another matter altogether.

3/  mRNA themselves are very fragile in the human body and are easily attacked by Ribonucleases that are distributed very widely in our body. Reverse Transcriptase, which converts RNA to DNA, is very troubling. It is not naturally found in our body but becomes readily available if you are very sick with a chronic virus, like Hepatitis B. Our local population has significantly higher rates of Hepatitis B (about 3.6% - many of the infected are unaware) and many are still undetected. Relying on data from a population that is significantly different from our local population is NOT very wise.

Please refer to the article:

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33330870/

4/ mRNA vaccines do not stop adults from transmitting Covid-19-VOC. We can assume that this will also be the case with children.

5/ It is NOT very WISE to try on Singaporean Children with Novel mRNA technology when they do not really need it and it DOES NOT effectively STOP them from becoming VECTORS.

6/ Killed-Virus technology has been around for decades and has a very long and safe track record. We even have thousands of it in our local warehouse at this moment and it had just been tested to be safe at Phase II/III for children (550 subjects).

Please refer to the article:

https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/sinovac-vaccine-safe-children-young-76624380

7/ We feel a lot safer, with KNOWN technology (proven to be SAFE), since our children are likely to outlive us. Primum non nocere.

8/ For mRNA, long-term side effects are unknown and unstudied. This point is supported by all Experts.

9/ These are our humble opinions. We hope MOH will allow parents to pick a vaccine that has been proven to be safe (ie, with no long-term harmful side effects) for our children and grandchildren.

Let us as a community, stand together and overcome this pandemic, with wisdom and prudence. Vaccination will drastically reduce the severity of Covid-19 infection for the vulnerable and will save many lives. We are very grateful for the availability of Vaccines made available by the determined effort of the MTF. Provideing us an option for a killed-virus vaccine would be most appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

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