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Double BCG vaccination in a neonate: implications, management and prevention

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Abstract

Tuberculosis is a common cause of morbidity and mortality especially in low-income and middle-income countries like India. BCG vaccination is recommended for all neonates after birth in areas with a high tuberculosis disease burden. Here, we describe a case where a neonate received two doses of the BCG (Chennai strain) vaccine within a span of 4 days after birth due to a vaccination error. Parents were informed about the event. The infant was managed conservatively and followed up till 12 months of life for any possible complication. There were no serious adverse effects apart from the localised reaction and a double scar on the left arm. Measures to avoid any such error in the future and the need for reporting medication error has been highlighted. Parental concerns are frequent in such scenarios and should be actively addressed.

Keywords: Neonatal health; Paediatrics (drugs and medicines); TB and other respiratory infections; Vaccination/immunisation.

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