



"Children May Need 2 Chickenpox Shots"

Atlanta Journal-Constitution (06/29/06) P. 16A; Hendrick, Bill

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will soon decide whether to recommend two doses of chickenpox vaccine for children prior to starting school as a means to prevent a mild form of the disease that can occur after just one dose. "The varicella vaccination program resulted in about an 80 percent reduction in cases and 88 percent reduction in hospitalizations," says Dalya Guris, author of the proposal and a CDC epidemiologist. "Since widespread use of the vaccine began, varicella deaths among children 1 to 4 years of age decreased by 92 percent." However, she noted that "in schools, we see outbreaks of varicella [chickenpox] even among highly vaccinated schoolchildren. Up to 20 percent would benefit from a second dose." The panel is also set to discuss flu vaccines and whether to recommend that children under nine years of age who do not receive two shots for their first flu vaccination should get two in the following year. According to Dr. Carol Baker of the National Foundation for Infectious Disease, children ages six months to nine years who receive two flu shots at their first vaccinations currently require only one shot annually after that.

For a schedule for immunization go to the:

2006 Childhood Immunization Schedule

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/child-schedule.htm#printable>

New recommendations are to be announced soon and we will update.