



Why were children included in the covid-19 Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trials?

Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>
To: Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 3:49 PM

Please see below my email to Professor Andrew Pollard, Chief Investigator on the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trials, and Chair of the UK Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, questioning why children were included in the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trials, when children aren't at serious risk of covid-19.

Elizabeth Hart

Independent person investigating the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy

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From: **Elizabeth Hart** <elizmhart@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 3:22 PM

Subject: Why were children included in the covid-19 Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trials?

To: <andrew.pollard@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk>

Cc: Sharon Davies, Peter Doshi, Kamran Abbasi, Theodora Bloom, Allyson Pollock, John Ioannidis, Simon Wain-Hobson, Richard Ebright, Marc Lipsitch, Michael Osterholm, Tom Inglesby, Carl Heneghan, Michael Levitt, Martin Kulldorff, Jayanta Bhattacharya, Sucharit Bhakdi, Gus Dalglish, Karol Sikora, Anders Tegnell, Johan Giesecke, Ian Frazer, Peter Doherty, Peter Collignon Roy Anderson, Peter Openshaw, Adrian Smith, David Cannadine, Venki Ramakrishnan, Adrian Smith, Andrew Goddard, Chris Conlon, Dan Summers, John Shine, Robert Clancy, Sunetra Gupta, Heidi Laron, Graham Medley, Melinda Mills, John Bell, David Kennedy, Andrew Read, Neil Ferguson, Patrick Vallance, Chris Whitty, Peter A. McCullough, Nick Hudson, Fiona Godlee

For the attention of:

Professor Andrew Pollard

Chief Investigator on the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trials

Chair of the UK Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

Dear Professor Pollard

Why were children included in the Oxford/AstraZeneca covid-19 vaccine trials?

It was reported in May 2020 that "**most paediatric cases with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection are mild; severe COVID-19 disease in children is rare**". *

It was known from the beginning that children weren't at serious risk with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, why were they included in covid-19 vaccine trials?

To vaccinate people at an early age with what potentially could be annual coronavirus vaccination throughout life, with unknown long-term cumulative consequences, raises important ethical questions, particularly when they are not at serious risk of disease.

Professor Pollard, I first asked you about this last year, in an email dated 20 June 2020, see email below. **But you did not respond.**

I also asked this question in my *BMJ* rapid response: **Is it ethical to include children in the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine trials?** 5 February 2021.

Professor Pollard, the Helsinki Declaration states: "**Medical research involving human subjects may only be conducted if the importance of the objective outweighs the risks and burdens to the research subjects.**"

As children do not appear to be at serious risk with SARS-CoV-2, in my opinion the risks and burdens for them participating in covid-19 vaccine trials outweigh the importance of the objective of the medical research, particularly as the plan is for children in general society to be vaccinated, when this appears to not be appropriate.

Why were any age groups not at serious risk of the SARS-CoV-2 virus included in the covid-19 vaccine trials?

And, **most importantly...who initiated the plan to vaccinate the entire global population against a virus which it was already known wasn't a serious threat to most people?**

How was this plan evaluated and by whom?

Where is the public record?

I request your urgent response Professor Pollard, these are important matters of public interest. See my previous email to you below.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Hart

Independent person investigating the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy

* The immune system of children: the key to understanding SARS-CoV-2 susceptibility? Rita Carsetti et al. The Lancet Child & Adolescent. Comment. Volume 4, Issue 6, P414-416, June 01, 2020: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(20\)30135-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(20)30135-8/fulltext)

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From: **Elizabeth Hart** <elizmhart@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Jun 20, 2020 at 4:22 PM

Subject: Questioning the ethics of children's involvement in Oxford's COVID-19 vaccine trials

To: <andrew.pollard@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk>

For the attention of:

Professor Andrew Pollard

Head of the Oxford Vaccine Group

Chair of the UK Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

Dear Professor Pollard, **is it ethical to include children in SARS-CoV-2/COVID 19 vaccine trials?**

The phase II part of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine trial in human volunteers is planned to include children aged between 5-12 years: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-05-22-oxford-covid-19-vaccine-begin-phase-iiii-human-trials>

It's been reported that **"most paediatric cases with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection are mild; severe COVID-19 disease in children is rare"**. (See comment published in *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health: The immune system of children: the key to understanding SARS-CoV-2 susceptibility?* [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(20\)30135-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(20)30135-8/fulltext))

How can it be ethical to include children in SARS-CoV-2/COVID 19 vaccine trials if most SARS-CoV-2 infections in children are mild, and severe COVID-19 disease in children is rare?

Professor Pollard, can you please advise what type of ethical committee process was undertaken in regards to Oxford's COVID-19 vaccine trial involving children aged between 5-12 years?

I would appreciate your response on this matter.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Hart

Independent citizen investigating conflicts of interest in vaccination policy and the over-use of vaccine products