

The system of vaccination in Austria

Dr. Reiner Brettenthaler

Officer for European & International Affairs
Austrian Medical Chamber

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Overview



1. General information
2. National Vaccination Plan
3. Child Immunisation Concept
4. Duties of the vaccinating doctor
5. Problems and challenges

- Vaccination is **voluntary** in Austria and therefore not part of the examinations laid down in the mother-child booklet
- Child benefits not tied to vaccination requirements
- **Parents decide** whether, when and against which diseases the child is vaccinated.

National Vaccination Plan



- Yearly **recommendations** by the Ministry of Health, advised by the National Vaccination Board, a body of medical experts.
- **Overview** of currently available vaccinations, targeted at **doctors** and **the public**
- **Primary vaccinations** (publicly financed) vs. **other important vaccinations not funded by the state** (e.g. FSME)

Special vaccination offers



- Yearly **promotion periods** during which vaccines are available at pharmacies for a reduced price
 - e.g.
 - FSME (Jan.-Jul.)
 - Meningococcal vaccine (Apr.-Sep.)

Child immunisation concept (I)



- Introduced in 1997
- Currently **12 free vaccines for children** up to 15 years
- **Publicly funded** (2/3 federal government – ministry of health, 1/6 federal states, 1/6 social insurance institutions)
- Priorities: Common diseases & rare, serious diseases

Child immunisation concept (II)

- **Free vaccinations for children aged 0-6 years**
 - Hexavalent vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, HIB
 - Combined vaccine against measles, mumps, rubella
 - Pneumococcal vaccine
 - Rotavirus

Child immunisation concept (III)



- **Free vaccinations at school age (7 to 15 years)**
 - Booster injections for vaccines received at the age of 0-6
- plus
- HPV (since Feb. 2014, for boys and girls at the age of 9)
 - Meningococcal vaccine (at the age of 12)

Child immunisation concept (IV)



- Vaccinations administered by a **general medical practitioner** or **pediatrician**
- in **school** by a school doctor
- at a **local health authority** (municipal or district authority)

Duties of the vaccinating doctor



- **Information** on and explanation of the disease to be prevented
- **Anamnesis** incl. current immunisation status / allergy status
- Determination of **fitness for vaccination**
- **Documentation** of the vaccination in the immunisation record card
(§ 51 Austrian Medical Act)

Problems and challenges

- **Vaccination critics** (refusing vaccination on „ideological“ grounds)
- **No mandatory** vaccinations
- **No vaccination reminder system** in place **for adults**
- Current epidemiological situation in Austria requires higher immunisation coverage for **measles** and **influenza**

Thank you for your
attention!