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Rotavirus vaccine trials in bangladesh: Findings and lessons learned from phase I to IV studies

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Rotavirus is the leading cause of severe diarrhoea in infants and young children, accounting for 45% of severe diarrhoeal disease in both developed and developing countries. Safe and effective rotavirus vaccines are needed to reduce the enormous public health burden associated with rotavirus illness, especially in developing countries. Prevention by vaccination is considered to be critical for effective control of rotavirus infection since it can not be prevented with improvements in water and sanitation. Two new rotavirus vaccines- Rotarix by GSK and Rotateq by Merck- have been developed. The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) has completed several rotavirus vaccine studies and others are ongoing which ranged from phase I to licensure and post marketing evaluation of the vaccines. The vaccines have been found to be safe, immunogenic and efficacious. Findings, lessons learned and challenges for successful implementation of these studies will be presented.

Biography

K. Zaman, MBBS, MPH, PhD has been working as senior scientist and epidemiologist at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), in the Public Health Sciences Division. After completion of MBBS from Bangladesh, he obtained MPH and PhD from the Johns Hopkins University, USA. For the last 30 years he has gained extensive experience in the design, implementation, and analysis of data from clinical and community-based epidemiological studies. His primary interests is to conduct researches on vaccines and infectious diseases. Besides clinical studies on ORS, drug trial, vaccine studies, vitamin A supplementation and hospital surveillance, he has been involved in community-based research on diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases and other public health problems in Bangladesh. Currently he is the Principal Investigator of several rotavirus vaccine studies in ICDDR,B. Dr. Zaman received several awards and has more than 180 publications in national and international journals and conference presentations.