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Background & Introduction

Second Workshop on Procedures for the Development of Evidence-based Recommendations for Immunization

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Introduction

- November 2010: „First Workshop on Procedures for the Development of Evidence-based Recommendations for Immunization", Berlin
- More than 40 international experts attended
- Objectives: To review procedures and experiences of National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) in developing evidence-based vaccination recommendations.

Conclusions of First Workshop (I)

- A systematic and transparent approach necessary for the development of vaccination recommendations
  - to optimise quality and acceptability of recommendations
- Methodologies under discussion in many NITAGs and WHO for several years
  - workshop revealed several fundamental commonalities that inspire further international collaboration

Conclusions of First Workshop (II)

- GRADE* or a modification of this methodology can be applied for the grading of quality of evidence related to vaccine effectiveness and safety
- International cooperation beneficial
  - to develop common (framework) methodologies
  - to avoid duplication of effort (e.g. systematic reviews)
  - to support NITAGs worldwide
  - but bearing in mind unique local characteristics (e.g. disease burden, financial capacity, values/preferences)

GRADE = **G**rading of **R**ecommendations **A**ssessment, **D**evelopment and **E**valuation

Objectives of Second Workshop (I)

- To continue the fruitful dialogue that was initiated in 2010
- Give an update on recent developments related to EBM in NITAGs or Public Health
  - CDC‘s ACIP
  - WHO/SAGE
  - GRADE working group
  - ECDC

Objectives of Second Workshop (II)

- To further discuss the applicability of GRADE for the development of vaccination recommendations: Some Challenges and possible solutions (Working Group 1)
- To discuss challenges of developing vaccination recommendations at the country-level and possibilities for providing international support to NITAGs (Working Group 2)
  - Plenary: Example from Finland
  - Plenary: Results from a survey among NITAGs
  - Group 2: Short Introduction from Mozambique, Thailand, Ukraine & United Kingdom

German Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO)

- Currently 17 independent members, appointed by the Ministry of Health for 3 years
- Executive Secretariat at Robert Koch Institute
- At least 2 closed meetings/year
- Procedures for potential conflict of interest in place
  - Published online, updated before each meeting
  - If potential conflict, member not allowed to discuss/vote
- Working Groups
  - on methods (since 2008)
  - on specific diseases / antigens

STIKO process in implementing EBM

- Development of a set of key questions to be addressed when developing a vaccination recommendation (since 2005; last revision 2009)
  - Pathogen and disease characteristics
  - Vaccine characteristics (effectiveness/efficacy, safety)
  - Potential population effects, number-needed-to-vaccinate
  - Implementation (fits in the schedule? Acceptance, etc.)
  - Final risk-benefit-assessment
- Systematic or “semi-systematic” reviews
- Formulation of a vaccination target

STIKO – process since 2009

- Decision (2011) to test the applicability of GRADE
  - When developing the next major vaccination recommendation
- Training in GRADE
  - German Cochrane Centre & members of GRADE working group
  - Provided to STIKO members in 2011 (one-day)
  - Provided to staff of Executive Secretariat since 2009
- New “Standard Operating Procedures” (SOP) Document
  - developed by the STIKO methods working group
    - to be proposed to STIKO in the next meeting
    - proposal to have a publication in German & English
  - To be further adjusted during the piloting phase of GRADE
- During piloting phase: Identification of ressource needs

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