

Initiative Citoyenne Press Release

GSK Synflorix Vaccine Withdrawn in a Hurry: Will We Ever Know Why?

GSK's Synflorix vaccine was authorized for use in Europe in 2009¹ and arrived on the Belgian market **in 2010**.² This vaccine, a competitor for Wyeth's very lucrative and much used Prevenar, was designed to protect against 10 different strains of pneumococcal disease and **had received a stamp of approval in October 2010**³ from our experts at the Belgian *Conseil Supérieur de la Santé* (Supreme Health Council) as well as in May of 2011 from the *Centre Fédéral d'Expertise des Soins de Santé (KCE)* (Federal Healthcare Expertise Centre).⁴ Less than a year later, we learn from the Belgian Pharmacotherapeutic Information Centre (CBIP)⁵ website as well as from the Belgian Medicines Agency⁶ that the Synflorix vaccine has been **withdrawn from the Belgian market in early December 2012**.

Strangely, to our knowledge no internet article specifies **the TRUE REASONS behind this very hasty withdrawal from the market** since the vaccine will only have 'existed' for two years but during that time, how many children will it have killed and damaged? (Cf the various reports of children dying after receiving Infanrix Hexa + **Synflorix** in the recent GSK confidential document on the Infanrix Hexa vaccine).⁷

It is nonetheless shocking to think that, in comparison, when we find a defect potentially jeopardising the safety of a particular model of car, all owners are duly informed and their cars are recalled as soon as possible for elementary checks. Somehow, **for vaccines, it is different: withdrawals take place in secret, without any consideration for the people who may have received the product; all of this because the hallowed image of vaccination must never be tarnished**, and rightly so because the manufacturers still have close on 300 new vaccines they plan to launch in the years to come!⁸

Take Sanofi's Hexavac, withdrawn in 2005 **under false pretenses and with the support of the European Medicines Agency**. In fact, the EMA helped the manufacturer to explain that the vaccine's withdrawal was due to insufficient effectiveness of one of the valences in the cocktail when it really had to do with safety: according to journalist Virginie Belle in her recent book *Faut-il Faire Vacciner Son Enfant?* (Should You Vaccinate Your Child?)⁹ infants had died from cerebral oedema following vaccination with this product.

Do not forget that in January 2012, GSK escaped with a fine of only €70,000 for performing **illegal tests of its Synflorix vaccine on Argentinian children used as guinea pigs**, 14 of whom died during these clinical trials. At the time, a number of newspapers reported that these deaths took place 'in the placebo group': proof – as if we needed it! – that in vaccine clinical trials, the placebos are false. In other words, the trials are completely biased from the start.¹⁰ The real reasons behind these deaths were never revealed and what is more, some of the autopsies were never performed! Several of the parents did not want their children vaccinated but they were forced and some of the children were even ill when they received the jab!¹¹

Initiative Citoyenne therefore demands that the CBIP, the AFMPS and all the ministers involved **provide DETAILED explanations for the recent hasty withdrawal of GSK's Synflorix vaccine**.

We also insist that the **code of silence around vaccination** come to an immediate end and we call upon all citizens, politicians, journalists, doctors and other healthcare and childhood professionals to open their eyes to the total ethical, moral and safety disaster represented by the current practice of BLIND and systematic vaccination of infants. When you think that this practice is ‘approved’ by pseudo-experts riddled with conflicts of interest. How can they possibly be trusted?!!

On behalf of *Initiative Citoyenne*,

Marie-Rose Cavalier, Muriel Desclée, Sophie Meulemans

¹ <http://ddata.over-blog.com/3/27/09/71/2012-2013/Synflorix--EPAR--U.E---AMM-en-2009.pdf>

² <http://ddata.over-blog.com/3/27/09/71/2012-2013/AFMPS-nouveau-synflorix-2010.pdf> (cf p. 7/10)

³ <http://ddata.over-blog.com/3/27/09/71/dec-2011/Rapport-CSS-oct.-2010--pneumocoques-.pdf>

⁴ <http://ddata.over-blog.com/3/27/09/71/KCE--rapport-vaccins-pneumococciques--2011-.pdf>

⁵ <http://ddata.over-blog.com/3/27/09/71/2012-2013/CBIP-retrait-Synflorix-decembre-2012.pdf>

⁶ <http://ddata.over-blog.com/3/27/09/71/2012-2013/AFMPS-Synflorix-retrait-dec.-2012.pdf>

⁷ <http://ddata.over-blog.com/3/27/09/71/2012-2013/confid.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.initiativecitoyenne.be/article-presque-300-nouveaux-vaccins-en-preparation-104391967.html>

⁹ <http://ddata.over-blog.com/3/27/09/71/2012-2013/Dessous-de-l-hexavac--livre-Virginie-Belle-.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.initiativecitoyenne.be/article-test-illegaux-de-gsk-sur-des-enfants-argentins-14-deces-et-une-amende-seulement-96751227.html>

¹¹ <http://ddata.over-blog.com/3/27/09/71/2012-2013/COBAYES-HUMAINS--Argentine--Synflorix.pdf>