

THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY SMALLPOX VACCINATION

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Smallpox is an infective disease which can cause death in some cases and no specific treatment for that has been reported yet and the only way of its prevention is vaccination. At this time, the disease has been eradicated successfully by vaccination programs. The last case of this disease has been reported in 1977 in Somali.

After disease eradication, vaccination program was halted in all countries but Russia, England and United States preserve the wild virus and Americans continue to produce this dangerous disease vaccine and vaccination program for their soldiers. This country has begun vaccination programs for non-military persons as well as its military forces. Although smallpox vaccination is not recommended for general population, this program can protect soldiers and a part of American people against smallpox virus. On the other hand, the rest of people of the world who have not been vaccinated since 1978 and generally the young people of each country that are at military service are exposed to the danger.

The problems caused by smallpox vaccination can be divided into two categories; firstly for someone who is vaccinated and next for people deprived from vaccination for any reason.

Side effects for people vaccinated include cardiac attack and chest pain. From 25645 persons vaccinated against smallpox in United States up to April 2003, seven cases were afflicted by heart problems; two cases have led to death. Moreover, from 2002 to 2003, nearly 325000 military staff were vaccinated that 11 cases of cardiac involvement were reported.

In this article, we try to examine the problems in American people who were vaccinated and to evaluate the causes and its outcome.