ABSTRACT

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Voluntary vaccination in children

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Many viruses or bacteria may be the cause of infectious diseases. It is possible to use vaccination against some of them. Voluntary vaccination in children is still an actual topic. Even though, vaccination has many opponents, it still belongs to the most effective preventive precautions.

Objectives: The thesis consists of a theoretical summary of information related to child voluntary vaccination problems. The practical part consists of a questionnaire study whose goal was to determine the attitude of parents and potential parents to child optional vaccination topic. Also, to find out the awareness of the population about the topic, to assess the most used voluntary vaccination, and possibly further information about dangerous side effects of the voluntary vaccinations.

Methods: A questionnaire study for a period October 2018 to February 2019 in the Czech Republic. The questionnaire consisted of 20 questions directed to parents and potential parents of various ages (606 respondents).

Results: Most of the respondents (94 %) were aware about a possibility of the child voluntary vaccination. More than a half (51 %) of respondents was informed about the possibility from their doctor, medical staff or from their profession. Parents most often chose the pneumococcal vaccine (30 %) for their firstborn child. In the group of respondents, there is a wide range of opinions on the topic. Relatively many people encountered some major side effects of voluntary vaccination. However, most of the parents and potential parents think about voluntary vaccination positively.

Conclusion: The results of the questionnaire study showed that knowledge about voluntary vaccination in population is relatively high. The most often vaccine used is
the pneumococcal vaccine. Parents’ and potential parents’ attitudes are not unequivocal. A part of the population has a negative stance to some of voluntary vaccinations, but still the positive attitude is more frequent. People are also influenced by several myths connected with vaccination.

**Keywords:** vaccination, immune system, myths about vaccination, voluntary vaccination