REVIEW

9

A database in ACCESS for assessing vaccine serious adverse events

Roger E Thomas¹ Dave Jackson^{2,3}

Department of Family Medicine, G012 Health Sciences Centre, University of Calgary Medical School, Calgary, AB, Canada; ²Independent Research Consultant, Calgary, AB, Canada; ³Database Consultant, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

Correspondence: Roger E Thomas Department of Family Medicine, G012 Health Sciences Centre, University of Calgary Medical School, 3330 Hospital Drive NW, Calgary, AB, Canada Tel +1 403 210 9208 Fax +1 403 270 4329 Email rthomas@ucalgary.ca

Purpose: To provide a free flexible database for use by any researcher for assessing reports of adverse events after vaccination.

Results: A database was developed in Microsoft ACCESS to assess reports of serious adverse events after yellow fever vaccination using Brighton Collaboration criteria. The database is partly automated (if data panels contain identical data fields the data are automatically also entered into those fields). The purpose is to provide the database free for developers to add additional panels to assess other vaccines.

Keywords: serious adverse events after vaccination, database, process to assess vaccineassociated events

Introduction

There are multiple databases worldwide used to assess reported adverse events and serious adverse events (SAEs) after vaccination. The US VAERS database¹ is open for data reports by members of the public and community health care workers. A database was designed in Microsoft ACCESS to permit independent assessment by two reviewers of all data in reports of SAEs following yellow fever vaccination. The official criteria for assessing SAEs after yellow fever vaccination are those of the Brighton Collaboration²⁻⁵ and these criteria are assessed in a series of panels. The ACCESS database uses panels to organize variables based on logic and entry workflows.

Summary of Figures

This panel is used to gather general demographic and admission data regarding a case, as well as references to the original publication (Figure 1). Fields in the Summary panel include: country, sex, age, vaccine, vaccine type, batch number, days until first symptoms, if admitted to hospital, days in hospital, if died, and publication details. Figures 2-4 assess yellow fever vaccine-associated neurological disease.

Figure 2 Encephalitis

Classified by Brighton Collaboration Levels 1, 2, and 3 of diagnostic certainty. Fields include central nervous system inflammation histopathology, if encephalopathy is present, temperature, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) findings, electroencephalogram (EEG) or neuroimaging, and 13 clinical signs or symptoms (Figure 2).

submit your manuscript | www.dovepress.com

http://dx.doi.org/10.2147/VDT.\$82427

Dovenress

Vaccine: Development and Therapy 2015:5 9-16

© 2015 Thomas and Jackson. This work is published by Dove Medical Press Limited, and licensed under Creative Commons Attribution – Non Commercial (unported, v3.0) License. The full terms of the License are available at http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/. Non-commercial uses of the work are permitted without any further permission from Dove Medical Press Limited, provided the work is properly attributed. Permissions beyond the scope of the License are administered by Dove Medical Press Limited, Information on how to request permission may be found at: http://www.dovepress.com/permissions.php

aseID Details World Health Organization	2.61-M-		Country: Belgium	v	Save and New	Glose
mary Encephalitis Myel	tis ADEM Viscerotropic YEL-AVD	Guillain-Barre Anaphylax	s Anaphylaxis Level Li	ab Diag of YF / Other Ot	ther Findings Decisions	
Unique ID Assigne Gender Age at Vaccination Date of livit. Date of Vaccination VaccineType [70] Date of Frist Symptom Mongtal Admission Hospital Admission Hospital Admission	Male Prepnot: 63 Canuard: BatchNumber:	Village District Province Country Belg Date of D Days bill Deal	ied ⊙Yes ⊛No ⊙	eted 3/20/2010	1	
Original Dat Docum Jou	Document Details Source [Journal Inmune response during ad na1Tile Journal of Infectious Disease where(s) Ba H-G, Domingo C, Tenoric or Rooper Thomas and Dave Jackson	verse events after 17D-d s 2008; 197:1577-84. [als	o reported in Monath 2	ccinatio	Duplicate P	lecord]

Figure I Age, sex, country, time to symptoms and hospitalization, whether died, and publication details.

WHOCaseID Details		×
World Health 1.47-M-	Country: UK Save and New Close	
Summary Encephalitis Myelitis ADEM Viscerotropic YEL-AVD Guillain-Barre Anaph	ylaxis Anaphylaxis Level Lab Diag of YF / Other Other Findings Decisions	
EXCLUDE IF Other diagnosis for illness present O Yes O No O No Data	Insufficient information to distinguish between acute encephalitis of ADBA; case unable to be Ves No No Data definitivel; cassified.	
Database designed by Professor Roger Thomas and Dave Jackson		

Figure 2 Three levels of diagnostic certainty of encephalitis according to Brighton Collaboration criteria.

WHOCaseID Details	a promotion		
World Health 2.61-M-	Country: Belgium	Save and New	<u>C</u> lose
Summary Encephalitis Myelitis ADEM Viscerotropic YEL-AVD Guillain-Barre Ana	phylaxis Anaphylaxis Level Lab Diag of YF / Other O	ther Findings Decisions	
Myelitis: Level 1 of diagnostic certainty Yes No Spinal cord inflammation histopathology Yes No No Data	Encephalomyelitis: Meet criteri encephalitis and myelitis in an		© No
Myelitis: Level 2 of diagnostic certainty Ves No Myelopathy Ves No No No Data			
AND TWO OR MORE of			
T38C 💿 Yes 💿 No 💿 No Data CSF 💿 Yes 💿 No 💿 No Data			
Neuroimaging acute inflammation (z meninges), or demyelination of spinal cord No No Data			
Myelitis: Level 3 of diagnostic certainty 💿 Yes 💿 No			
Myelopathy 🔘 Yes 🔘 No 🔘 No Data			
AND ONE of			
T38C 💿 Yes 💿 No 💿 No Data CSF 💿 Yes 💿 No 💿 No Data			
Neuroimaging acute inflammation (2			
·			
Database designed by Professor Roger Thomas and Dave Jackson			

Figure 3 Three levels of diagnostic certainty for myelitis according to Brighton Collaboration criteria..

Figure 3 Myelitis

Classified by Brighton Collaboration Levels 1, 2, and 3 of diagnostic certainty. Fields include spinal cord inflammation histopathology, if myelopathy is present, temperature, CSF findings, and neuroimaging (Figure 3).

Figure 4 Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM)

Classified by Brighton Collaboration Levels 1, 2, and 3 of diagnostic certainty. Fields include demyelination on histopathology, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) white matter lesions, monophasic illness, and nine clinical signs or symptoms (Figure 4).

Figure 5 Viscerotropic disease

Viscerotropic disease is assessed in Figures 5 and 6. The case definition is classified by Brighton Collaboration Levels 1, 2, and 3 of diagnostic certainty and does not imply causality by yellow fever vaccine. Seven major and seven minor criteria are entered then the level is assessed (Figure 5).

Figure 6 Yellow fever vaccineassociated viscerotropic disease

A second level of classification assigns levels of possible causality into "confirmed", "probable", and "suspect" levels. This permits differentiation between cases caused by wild yellow fever virus and by yellow fever vaccine. The case meets the suspect level if the individual had been in a yellow fever-endemic or -epidemic area within 10 days of onset of symptoms and yellow fever virusspecific antigen was detected in tissue demonstrated by immunohistochemistry or histopathology consistent with yellow fever. It meets the probable and definite levels if it meets the suspect level and yellow fever 17D virus is demonstrated within specific time periods or at specific concentrations (Figure 6).

Figure 7 Guillain-Barré syndrome

Cases are classified into levels 1, 2 or 3 of diagnostic certainty. Level 3 of diagnostic certainty requires three groups of clinical symptoms or signs and the absence of an alternative diagnosis. Level 2 requires level 3 plus CSF white blood cell <50 cells/microliter or, if no CSF was collected then electrophysiological findings consistent with Guillain–Barré syndrome. Level 1 requires level 3 plus electrophysiological findings consistent with Guillain–Barré syndrome and CSF cytoalbuminologic dissociation (Figure 7).

Figure 8 Anaphylaxis

Figures 8 and 9 are used to assess anaphylaxis. Three dermatological or mucosal, five cardiovascular, and eight respiratory symptoms are assessed (Figure 8).



Figure 4 Three levels of diagnostic certainty for Acute Disseminated encephalomyeltis (ADEM).

н

Case Definition of Visco	erotr	opic	Dis	ease			
Level 1 of diagnostic certainty		Yes		No	-	Unclear	(≥ 3 major criteria)
Level 2 of diagnostic certainty	0	Yes		No	~	Unclear	(2 major criteria OR 1 major criterion AND ≥ 2 minor criteria*)
Level 3 of diagnostic certainty	0	Yes	۰	No	0	Unclear	(≥ 3 Minor criteria OR 1 Major and 1 Minor criterion)
			_				
Ainor Criteria Hepatic: Jaundic		Ver		No		No Data	Major Criteria
Renal: Urine output <500 ml urine/24 hours	-	Yes	0	No	۲	ivo Data	Musculoskeletal: CPK ≥ 5X ULN Yes No No Data Hepatic: Total bilirubin ≥ 1.5X ULN* 1≥ 1.5X
for adults; urine output children < 0.5 ml/kg/hour for children		Yes	e	No	۲	No Data	Prepartier i to tata binimuloi 2.1.5.2 ULP (2.1.5.2 patient's baseline value if known) OR ALT or AST 2.3X ULN (2.3X patient's baseline value if Yes (a) No Data known)
Musculoskeletal: Positive urine dipstick for blood with a negative urine microscopic exam for RBC	0	Yes	e) No		No Data	Renal:Creatinime ≥ 1.5 ULN [≥ 1.5X patient's baseline value if known] ⊙ Yes ⊙ No @ No Data
Respiratory: Increased respiratory rate for age*		Yes	e) No	٠	No Data	Platelet disorder < 100,000/µL 💿 Yes 💿 No 💩 No Data
Platelet disorder: Petechiae or purpura presen		Yes	e	No		No Data	Respiratory: Oxygen saturation ≤ 88% (by pulse oximetry) OR Requirement for mechanical ventilation OYes ONO ON Data
Hypotension: Systolic BP < 90 mmHg for adults; Systolic BP < 5th percentile for age in children <16 year		Yes	e	No	۰	No Data	Coagulopathy:INR** ≥ 1.5 OR Prothrombin time: 1.5 ULN OR Activated partial
Coagulopathy: Clinically evident hemorrhage consisting of at least one of: Epistaxis, Hematemesis, Melena, Hematochezia, Hematuria, Hemoptysis, Metrorrhagia or	e	Yes	e) No	٠	No Data	thromboplastin time 2.1.SUN OR elevated Ves No No No Data Fibrin degradation products INR = International normalized ratic; UNI = upper limits of normal
menorrhagia, Gingival hemorrhag							Hypotension: Requirement for vasopressor drugs to maintain systolic BP

Figure 5 The Case definition of viscerotropic disease with minor and major criteria according to Brighton Collaboration criteria.

WHOCaseID Details									-
World Health 1.	47-M-	Cour				e and N	lew	Close	
Summary Encephalitis Myelitis	ADEM Viscerotropic YEL-AVD	Guillain-Barre Anaphylaxis Anaph	laxis Level Lab Diag of YF / Oth	er (Other Fir	idings	Decis	ions	
Definite yellow fever	vaccine-associated causalit	y 💮 Yes 💿 No 💮 Unclea	One or more of the followin	ng ar	e prese	nt:			
		Yellow fever 17Da virus isolation	rom blood >10 days post vaccination	0	Yes (No	0	Unclear	
		Yellow fever 17Da virus concentration	n blood ≥3 log10pfu/mLon any day	0	Yes	No	۰	Unclear	
	Yell	w fever 17Da viral RNA amplification fr	im blood ≥14 days post vaccination	0	Yes	No	۲	Unclear	
Isolation of yellow fever 17Da virus	s OR amplification of yellow fever 17Da		y consistent with yellow fever (e.g., zonal necrosis, Councilman bodies)	0	Yes	No	۰	Unclear	
	sue with characteristic vaccine-associated histopathology consistent with yellow fe		an bodies) AND no history of being	0	Yes	⊜ No	۲	Unclear	
Probable vellow fever v	accine-associated causality	💮 Yes 💿 No 💮 Uncl	one or more of the follo	owin	g are pr	esent			ì
			om blood 8-10 days post vaccination	0	Yes	No	۲	Unclear	I
Yellor	w fever 17Da virus concentration in bloo	d ≥2 log10 pfu/mL but < 3 log10 pfu/mL	n any day 1-10 days post vaccination	0	Yes	No	۲	Unclear	I
	Yellow feve	17Da viral RNA amplification from bloor	≥11 and <14 days postvaccination.	0	Yes	⊚ No	۰	Unclear	
	Isolation of yel	ow fever 17D virus OR amplification of y	llow fever 17Da viral RNA from tissue	0	Yes	No	۰	Unclear	I
Histopathology consistent wit	ith yellow fever (e.g., liver midzonal necro		f being in a yellow fever-endemic or rea within 10 days of symptom onset	0	Yes	⊖ No		Unclear	
Suspect yellow feve	er vaccine-associated causal	ity 🔿 Yes 💿 No 🕥 Uncl	ar One or more of the follo	owin	ig are pr	esent			1
Histopathology consistent with yell	low fever (e.g., liver midzonal necrosis, C	ouncilman bodies)AND history of being i a	a yellow fever-endemic or epidemic ea within 10 days of symptom onset	0	Yes	⊜ No		Unclear	
YF virus-specific antigen intissue d	lemonstrated by immunohistochemistry (HC)b AND history of being in a yellow fe	er-endemic or -epidemic area within 10 days of symptom onset	0	Yes	⊜ No		Unclear	
Insufficient data to det	termine yellow fever vaccin	e-associated causality	'es 💿 No 💿 Unclear						i i
			No yellow fever testing done						I
	Yellow fever testing done an	i test results do not meet any of the crite	OR ria for causality levels 1, 2, or 3 above	۲	Yes	No No	0	Unclear	
									-
Database designed by Professor R	Roger Thomas and Dave Jackson								

Figure 6 Three levels of diagnostic certainty for yellow fever vaccine-associated viscerotropic disease (YEL-AVD) according to Brighton Collaboration criteria.

World Health Organization	1.47-M-		Country: UK	~			vear	nd Ne			Close
Encephalitis Myeli	tis ADEM Viscerotropic YEL-AVD Gu	uillain-Barre Anaphyla	axis Anaphylaxis Level	Lab Diag of YF / Oth	er (Other F	indi	ngs	Decis	ions	
ical Case Definitio	ons: Guillain-Barré syndrome										
	Level 3 of diagnostic certainty	/ O Yes O No	O Unclear								
			Bilateral AND flacci	weakness of the limbs	0	Yes	0	No	0	Unclea	AND
		Decrea	sed or absent deep tendor	reflexes in weak limbs	0	Yes	0	No	0	Unclea	
Monophasic illne	ss pattern AND interval between onset and nac	dir of weakness between	12 h and 28 days AND sub	requent clinical plateau	0	Yes	0	No	0	Unclea	AND
		Absence o	f an identified alternative	diagnosis for weakness	0	Yes	0	No	0	Unclear	AND
	Level 2 of diagnostic certainty	∕ © Yes © No	O Unclear			Level	3 Di	agno	stic (Certaint	y AND
	CSF total white cell count <50 cells/mi	croL (with or without CS	F protein elevation above	aboratory normal value	0	Yes	0	No	0	Unclea	OR
	IF CSF not collec	ted or results not availab	ole, electrophysiologic stu	dies consistent with GB	0	Yes	0	No	0	Unclea	
	Level 1 of diagnostic certainty	∕ © Yes © No	Unclear			Level	3 Di	agno	stic (Certaint	y AND
			Electrophysiologic findi	ngs consistent with GBS	0	Yes	0	No	0	Unclea	IT AN

Figure 7 Clinical case definition of Guillain-Barré syndrome according to Brighton Collaboration criteria.

ermatologic or Mucos	aı					Respiratory							
Generalized urticaria (hives) or	0	Yes	No No No	• •	No Data	Bilateral wheeze (bronchospasm)	0	Yes	\odot	No	۲	No Data	
generalized erythema Angioedema, localized or	0		No No No		No Data	Stridor	0	Yes	\odot	No	۲	No Data	
generalized	-		0		INO Data	Upper airway swelling (lip, tongue, throat, uvula, or larynx)	0	Yes	0	No	۲	No Data	
eneralized pruritus with skin rash	0	Yes	No No	•	No Data	Tachypnoea	0	Yes	0	No	۲	No Data	
						Increased use of accessory respirat (sternocleidomastoid, inter	ory mi costal	uscles s, etc.)	⊚ Ye	в ©	No	No Date	a
Cardiovascular						Recession	0	Yes	0	No	۲	No Data	
						Cyanosis	0	Yes	0	No	۲	No Data	
Tachycardia	0	Yes	⊚ No	•	No Data	Grunting	0	Yes	0	No	۲	No Data	
Measured Hypotension	0	Yes	⊚ No	•	No Data								
Capillary Refill time > 3s	0	Yes	⊚ No	•	No Data								
Reduced central pulse volume	0	Yes	⊚ No	•	No Data								
Decreased level of consciousness or loss of consciousness	0	Yes	⊜ No	•	No Data								
						1							
	0	Yes	⊚ No	• •	No Data	J							

Figure 8 Dermatologic or mucosal, cardiovascular and respiratory symptoms in the definition of anaphylaxis according to Brighton Collaboration criteria.

Figure 9 Anaphylaxis levels of diagnostic certainty

Anaphylaxis is then classified into Brighton Collaboration Levels 1, 2, and 3 of diagnostic certainty using the major criteria in Figure 8 and minor criteria in the case definition (Figure 9).³

The next two figures (Figures 10 Laboratory diagnosis, and Figure 11 Other findings) are used to capture additional information about the case helpful in making an informed classification. Data entry in these sections was set up to be dynamic to reflect the wide variety of potential entry types.

Figure 10 Laboratory tests for the diagnosis of yellow fever and other infectious diseases

Laboratory diagnosis of yellow fever and other infections: fields include eleven yellow fever specific tests, 22 tests for other infectious diseases, and free entry of other laboratory tests with values and units (Figure 10).

World Health Organization	1.47-M-					ountry: UK			~	Save and New	<u>C</u> lose
		scerotropic YEL-AVD	Guillain-Barre	Anaphylaxi	s Ana	phylaxi	s Level	Lab Di	iag of YF / Other	Other Findings Dec	tisions
evel 1 of Diagnost	ic Certainty										
≥ 1 ma	jor dermatological			Yes	0	No	No	Data	AND		
≥1 ma	ijor cardiovascular AND	0/OR ≥ 1 major respirator	y criterion	Yes	0	No	⊚ No	Data			
evel 2 of Diagnost	ic Certainty										
≥ 1 maj	or cardiovascular AND	≥ 1 respiratory criterion		Yes	0	No	⊚ No	Data	OR		
1 major	cardiovascular OR resp	iratory criterion		Yes	0	No	No	Data	AND		
≥ 1 min cardiov	or criterion involving ≥ ascular or respiratory sy	1 different systems (other stems)	r than	Yes	0	No	⊚ No	Data	OR		
	ajor dermatologic) ANI espiratory criterion)	D (≥ 1 minor cardiovascu	ar AND/OR	Yes	0	No	⊚ No	Data			
evel 3 of Diagnost	-										
≥ 1 min	or cardiovascular OR re	spiratory criterion		Yes	0	No	No	Data	AND		
≥ 1 min	or criterion from each o	of ≥ 2 different systems/o	ategories	Yes	0	No	No	Data			

Figure 9 Three levels of diagnostic certainty for anaphylaxis according to Brighton Collaboration criteria .

imary	Encephalitis Myelitis	ADEM	Vis	cerotri	pic	YEL-A	/D Guillain-B	arre Anaph	ylaxis A	naphyla	axis Leve	Lab Diag o	f YF / Oth	other Findin	gs Dea	tisions		
Lab D	liagnosis of Yellow	Fowar			_			Lab Di	agnosis	of Ot	her Di	seases						
				-								No Data	-1	Cytomegalovirus	Over	©No.	No Data	
		-	· · ·	~		No			G Herpes	0		No Data		IGM Herpes Simplex				
	YF RT/	PCR) Ye	• 0	No	No	Data											
	YI	FlgG) Ye	0	No	No	Data					No Data		Dengue IgM				
	Anti-YFV	IgM () Ye	• 0	No	No	Data	Herpes	s Simplex Isolation	© Yes	©No	No Data		Dengue virus isolation	©Yes	©N₀	No Data	
	Anti-YFV	lgG () Ye	• 0	No	No	Data	Ep	stein Barr	Over	ONe	No Data		Hepatitis A	Over	ONIO	No Data	
	Viral load by real time	PCR	Ye	• •	No	No	Data											
	RT/PCR for flavivirus l	RNA (Ye	. 0	No	No	Data	syncytia	I virus RSV	OYes	©No	No Data					No Data	
	tralising Abs to YF by pla		No.		NI-	. N.	Data 1:80	50	Japanese	©Yes	©No	No Data					No Data	
	eduction neutralisation P	RNT	e re	0	NO	() NO	Data 1:80					No Data		Adenovirus	© Yes	ONo	No Data	
	Viral RNA isola	tion () Ye	0	No	No	Data		culture	016	ONO	e No Data		Parainfluenza	◎Yes	©N₀	No Data	
	Cell culture fo	r YF (Ye	0	No	No	Data	In	fluenza A	OYes	©N₀	No Data		Varicella	© Yes	ONo	No Data	
	YF virus isola	tion	Ver	0	No	No		In	ifluenza B	OYes	©N₀	No Data		Feces	OYes	ONo	No Data	
	11 1103 1500		- 10	Ŭ				Blood	bacterial	© Yes	©No	No Data		Other bacterial culture	@v	ON	@Nie Date	
	dd Other Lab Values								culture				_	culture	016	ONO	@ No Data	
1	Lab Test				Lab.	fest Va	luo -	Classif	fication			ab Test Unit						
VE Im	imunofluorescence				Lab	est va) serum	ncation		U	ab rescont						1
GPT	indionablescence							5 Liver									1	
GGT							32	1 Liver										
eleva	ations in CRP, LDH and	urea (d	ata					serum										
			4														*	

Figure 10 Laboratory tests for the diagnosis of yellow fever and other infectious diseases.

WHOCaseID Details				
World Health 1.	47-M-	Country: UK	Save and New	<u>C</u> lose
Summary Encephalitis Myelitis	ADEM Viscerotropic YEL-AVD	Guillain-Barre Anaphylaxis Anaphylaxis Level Lab	Diag of YF / Other Other Findings Decisions	
Enter other clinical findings rel	lating to this case below.			
Add Clinical Findings				
Category	•	Description	•	
•	Total			
Database designed by Professor R	toger Thomas and Dave Jackson			

Figure 11 Other Clinical Findings (Details of past medical history, vaccines and medications can be entered by opening categories).

III WHO	DCaseID Details	_	_									_	_	×
(World Healt Organizatio	th 1.	47-M-					Country: UK		7	Save and New		lose	
Sumr	nary Encephalitis	Myelitis	ADEM Visce	rotropic YEL-	AVD Guill	ain-Barre	Anaphylaxis	Anaphylaxis Level	Lab Diag	of YF / Other	Other Findings De	ecisions		
E	nter Decisions by ea	ch Review	er for Case											
	Add Reviewer Decisi	ion												
	Decision B		AEFI? •					AEFINotConsisten	twith +	AEFINeurotrop	i • AEFIViscerotr	opi - AEF	Anaphylact -	
	Roger	-	Yes	Vaccine Read	tion	Viscerotro	pic disease							
*		Total	No						-			_		
		TOTAL												
Datat	base designed by P	rofessor R	oner Thomas	and Dave Jacks	00									
	and designed by P	None as of the	oger montas i	una bare Jacks										

Figure 12 The decision flow tree for Brighton Collaboration definitions of yellow fever-associated adverse events can be opened by tapping the space under "Decision by".



Figure 13 Decision flow tree for Brighton Collaboration yellow fever vaccine-associated severe adverse events. Abbreviation: AEFI, adverse events following immunization.

Figure II Other findings

Fields include past medical history, other vaccines received, and current medications (Figure 11).

Figures 12 and 13 Decision flow tree for Brighton Collaboration yellow fever vaccine-associated decisions

Figure 12 shows how to open the Decision tree, and Figure 13 uses all the data captured in the previous eleven figures. The decisions section of the database allows for multiple reviewers to make an evaluation of the case. By tapping on the top leftmost area five criteria panels and a decision panel open up (Figure 12).

All evaluations are made using the logic: 1a) is the method by which the authors selected the case clearly described? b) Did the authors assess probable confounders in the past medical history? c) Did the authors address probable confounders from medications, vaccines or other interventions? 2) Is there complete clinical data for the case? 3) Is there complete detection of SAEs due to yellow fever vaccination with sensitive, specific, and valid outcome measures? 4) Is there complete assessment of probable confounders: other infections, illnesses? 5) Is the judgment on this case that it meets the Brighton Collaboration criteria and what level does it meet? 6) A decision flow sheet selecting the Brighton Collaboration diagnosis and level of diagnostic certainty. (If a case met eg, both encephalitis 2 and ADEM 3 criteria, the principal classification was the higher one, ie, encephalitis 2 and the secondary classification was ADEM 3).

Conclusion

Researchers can modify the ACCESS database to assess other vaccines using Panel 1, modifying Panels 10–12, and adding panels for the criteria to assess other vaccines. The database is intended to be adapted by researchers either who wish to assess published cases of potential SAEs attributed to other vaccines, or are in the field and wish to assess reported SAEs during vaccination campaigns (they could modify or simplify the panels in this database). In the case of published cases data integrity should have been assured by the publishing editors. In the case of databases used during vaccine campaigns the researchers would need to code and encrypt the basic identifying data for cases.

Acknowledgments

In 2010 the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) requested that the World Health Organization (WHO) commission an independent systematic review of the safety of yellow fever vaccine. A systematic review was prepared for the WHO and GACVS by a research team at the University of Calgary headed by Roger E Thomas. The focal

contact person for the WHO was Dr Alejandro Costa with Dr Rosamund Lewis. There was extensive correspondence with the WHO focal person and Dr Rosamund Lewis, with additional correspondence with Dr Sergio Yactayo. The literature search for the current article is partly based on the literature search for the commissioned systematic review. The initial literature search and systematic review was funded by The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI).

Disclosure

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

References

 VAERS – Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System [homepage on the Internet]. Available from: http://vaers.hhs.gov/index. Accessed January 10, 2015.

- Gershman MD, Staples JE, Bentsi-Enchill AD, et al. Viscerotropic disease: case definition and guidelines for collection, analysis, and presentation of immunization safety data. *Vaccine*. 2012;30(33):5038–5058.
- Rüggeberg JU, Gold MS, Bayas JM, et al. Anaphylaxis: case definition and guidelines for data collection, analysis, and presentation of immunization safety data. *Vaccine*. 2007;25(31):5675–5684.
- Sejvar JJ, Kohl KS, Gidudu J, et al. Guillain–Barré syndrome and Fisher syndrome: case definitions and guidelines for collection, analysis, and presentation of immunization safety data. *Vaccine*. 2011;29(3): 599–612.
- Sejvar JJ, Kohl KS, Bilynsky R, et al. Encephalitis, myelitis, and acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM): case definitions and guidelines for collection, analysis, and presentation of immunization safety data. *Vaccine*. 2007;25(31):5771–5792.

Vaccine: Development and Therapy

Publish your work in this journal

Vaccine: Development and Therapy is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal that spans the spectrum of vaccine design and development through to clinical applications. The journal is characterized by the rapid reporting of application notes, reviews, original research and clinical studies in all therapeutic areas. Clinical outcomes, patient safety, and programs for the development and effective, safe, and sustained use of vaccines will be a feature of the journal. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system. Visit http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: http://www.dovepress.com/vaccine-development-and-therapy-journal

16

Dovepress