

D. FIELD STUDIES WITH THE BIFURCATED NEEDLE

Dr Ataur Rahman, Institute of Public Health, Dacca, has reported the results of a limited trial employing the bifurcated needle and freeze-dried vaccine in multiple puncture vaccination. A comparison was made between 15 and 30 strokes with the needle:

Years since previous vaccination	<u>30 strokes</u>			<u>15 strokes</u>		
	No.	Major reactions	%	No.	Major reactions	%
1	36	7	19	30	3	10
1-2	12	7	52	21	5	24
2-3	18	12	66	17	7	41
3-4	17	12	76	12	8	67
4-5	7	6	86	8	7	87
5	2	2	-	4	4	-

The proportion of major reactions among those vaccinated four or more years previously was approximately the same whether 15 or 30 strokes were used. For those vaccinated less than 4 years before, a somewhat higher proportion of takes was observed among those receiving 30 strokes.

This study suggests that the bifurcated needle employed for multiple puncture vaccination produces excellent take rates in recent revaccinees, the group in whom it is most difficult to obtain satisfactory takes. If these results are borne out in subsequent larger scale studies, the use of the recommended 15 strokes for vaccination in the field would seem quite reasonable bearing in mind that those previously vaccinated during the preceding 3 to 4 years are already highly immune and the fact that the use of 15 strokes is operationally more practical.