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Podcast Contributor Show Notes

Covid Vaccine for Kids 5-11 years

Guest Name: Paul Offit MD
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Sample Tweet: None other than THE @DrPaulOffit is back with Hippo Education's @BeharSolomon and @nedafrayha to discuss the #COVID19 vaccine in children aged 5-11 years: vaccine trial data, practical logistics for clinicians, and what it all means for the future of the pandemic. Listen for free at **[insert hyperlink and artwork]**

Hosts: Sol Behar MD, Neda Frayha MD

Title: **Expert Update: Dr. Paul Offit and the COVID Vaccine for Kids 5-11 years**

Summary:
In this Hippo Education bonus, world-renowned vaccine expert and pediatric infectious diseases specialist Dr. Paul Offit sits down with Peds RAP host Dr. Sol Behar and Primary Care RAP host Dr. Neda Frayha for an insightful conversation on the latest COVID vaccine for children aged 5-11 years. They explore the vaccine trial data, practical logistics for clinicians, and what it all means for the future of the pandemic.

References:
FDA Briefing Document EUA Amendment Request for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Use in Children 5 through 11 Years of Age. 2021.
https://www.fda.gov/media/153447/download

Tags:

Pediatrics, Infectious disease ID, Public Health

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Objectives:

- Explore data pertaining to vaccine efficacy and safety in children ages 5-11
- Discuss practical logistics of vaccine administration in this age group
- Provide language to help listeners educate patients and their families about the covid-19 vaccine in children
- Explore the future of the pandemic once children can be vaccinated against covid-19

Sol: The pediatric covid-19 vaccine was just recently approved for children ages 5-11 years old, and children are already receiving the first dose of this vaccine. This is a major milestone of the covid-19 pandemic, something that our patients and their families are asking us about all the time. I'm Dr. Sol Behar, host of Hippo Education's Peds RAP podcast, and I'm here with my colleague, Dr. Neda Frayha, host of Hippo Education's Primary Care RAP podcast, to chat with a very special guest about the data behind the covid-19 vaccine for the younger kids, the impact of this milestone, and the practical details every front-line clinician needs to know.

Neda: That's right, Sol. We are back together with none other than Dr. Paul Offit, Director of the Vaccine Education Center and Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Maurice R. Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He is going to help us understand all the practical details *and* big-picture context behind the use of the Pfizer Comirnaty (or covid-19) vaccine in children ages 5-11. Welcome back, Paul! We are so excited to be here with you.

Main Talking Points:

I. **Vaccine Data in Children Ages 5-11 Years**
   A. First, let's talk about the data. To establish some background information, what is the burden of disease for 5-11 year olds from covid-19?
   B. And what is the risk of severe disease / MIS-C?
   C. What do the vaccine trial data show in terms of efficacy of the covid vaccine in this age group?
   D. Were there any serious side effects reported in the trial? Was the trial powered to pick up these side effects? We're thinking specifically of the risk of myocarditis.

II. **Practical Logistics of Vaccine Administration**
   A. Now let's move into some practical logistics front-line clinicians are counseling our patients on. What is the dosage compared to that for older age groups?

B. How are we minimizing the risk of dosing errors? (Orange caps, etc.)
C. What is the dosing schedule?
D. Is it ok to get multiple vaccines on the same day as the covid vaccine (especially the influenza vaccine)?

III. **Educating our Patients and Their Families**

A. There's a lot of patient and family education that goes into our typical day-to-day work. We often have to break down a lot of myths. How can we best respond to families who say that the risk of severe disease is low enough that their child doesn't need the vaccine?
B. What if someone says, the prevalence of my disease in my community is low right now, does my child need the vaccine?
C. How can we best respond to families who say that as long as the vaccine is under EUA, they won't get their kids vaccinated? *(I (Neda) had many adult patients who told me they were going to wait for full FDA approval before considering getting vaccinated themselves.)*
D. What should we tell parents whose kids have already had covid infection- do these children benefit from vaccination? In other words, what do we know about natural immunity vs vaccine-mediated immunity?
E. What if a family wants to get the first dose but forego the second due to perceived risk of myocarditis?
F. *(Only if we're doing great on time)* -- Something we've talked about with you in the past is, what role should clinicians play in combating misinformation in our communities, whether online or in any other setting?

IV. **Moving Forward**

A. Looking ahead to the future… will vaccinating this age group have an effect on the overall arc of the pandemic to get us closer to herd immunity?
B. How would you counsel parents and schools on what kids can do once they're fully vaccinated (e.g. masks, indoor measures, etc.)?
C. Any thoughts on the timeline for vaccine approval for kids <5 yrs old?

V. **Anything else he'd like to share?**

Reference:
https://www.fda.gov/media/153447/download

(Neda's notes from AAP)

- Clinical trials in children ages 5-11 years found the vaccine to be 90.7% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19.
- Safety data from the trials, which included more than 3,000 children who received the vaccine, found the most common reactions were pain at the injection site, fatigue and headache. Reactions were mostly mild or moderate. There were no serious adverse events related to the vaccine, including anaphylaxis or myocarditis, although the latter likely was too rare for detection in a trial of that size.
- Since the start of the pandemic, about 1.9 million children ages 5-11 years have been infected. More than 8,300 have been hospitalized and 94 have died, according to federal data. The death toll in the past year puts COVID in the top 10 causes of death for this age group.