



Vaccine

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Mark Herbert, PhD

World Development Institute
39-6 Main Street, Flushing, Queens, New York 11354, USA, ma708090@gmail.com

Abstract: A vaccine is a biological preparation that provides active [acquired immunity](#) to a particular [infectious disease](#).^[1] A vaccine typically contains an agent that resembles a disease-causing microorganism and is often made from weakened or killed forms of the microbe, its toxins, or one of its surface proteins. The agent stimulates the body's [immune system](#) to recognize the agent as a threat, destroy it, and to further recognize and destroy any of the microorganisms associated with that agent that it may encounter in the future. Vaccines can be [prophylactic](#) (to prevent or ameliorate the effects of a future [infection](#) by a natural or wild [pathogen](#)), or [therapeutic](#) (to fight a disease that has already occurred, such as [cancer](#)).

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A **vaccine** is a biological preparation that provides active [acquired immunity](#) to a particular [infectious disease](#).^[1] A vaccine typically contains an agent that resembles a disease-causing microorganism and is often made from weakened or killed forms of the microbe, its toxins, or one of its surface proteins. The agent stimulates the body's [immune system](#) to recognize the agent as a threat, destroy it, and to further recognize and destroy any of the microorganisms associated with that agent that it may encounter in the future. Vaccines can be [prophylactic](#) (to prevent or ameliorate the effects of a future [infection](#) by a natural or wild [pathogen](#)), or [therapeutic](#) (to fight a disease that has already occurred, such as [cancer](#)).^{[2][3][4][5]}

The administration of vaccines is called [vaccination](#). Vaccination is the most effective method of preventing infectious diseases;^[6] widespread immunity due to vaccination is largely responsible for the [worldwide eradication](#) of [smallpox](#) and the restriction of diseases such as [polio](#), [measles](#), and [tetanus](#) from much of the world. The effectiveness of vaccination has been widely studied and verified;^[7] for example, vaccines that have proven effective include the [influenza vaccine](#),^[8] the [HPV vaccine](#),^[9] and the [chicken pox vaccine](#).^[10] The [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) reports that licensed vaccines are currently available for twenty-five different [preventable infections](#).^[11]

The terms *vaccine* and *vaccination* are derived from *Variolae vaccinae* (smallpox of the cow), the

term devised by [Edward Jenner](#) (who both developed the concept of vaccines and created the first vaccine) to denote [cowpox](#). He used the phrase in 1798 for the long title of his *Inquiry into the Variolae vaccinae Known as the Cow Pox*, in which he described the protective effect of cowpox against [smallpox](#).^[12] In 1881, to honor Jenner, [Louis Pasteur](#) proposed that the terms should be extended to cover the new protective inoculations then being developed.^[13]

There is overwhelming scientific consensus that vaccines are a very safe and effective way to fight and eradicate infectious diseases.^{[15][16][17][18]} The [immune system](#) recognizes vaccine agents as foreign, destroys them, and "remembers" them. When the [virulent](#) version of an agent is encountered, the body recognizes the protein coat on the virus, and thus is prepared to respond, by first neutralizing the target agent before it can enter cells, and secondly by recognizing and destroying infected cells before that agent can multiply to vast numbers.

Limitations to their effectiveness, nevertheless, exist.^[19] Sometimes, protection fails because of vaccine-related failure such as failures in vaccine attenuation, vaccination regimes or administration or host-related failure due to host's immune system simply does not respond adequately or at all. Lack of response commonly results from genetics, immune status, age, health or nutritional status.^[20] It also might fail for genetic reasons if the host's immune system includes no strains of [B cells](#) that can generate [antibodies](#) suited to reacting effectively and binding to

the [antigens](#) associated with the [pathogen](#).

Even if the host does develop antibodies, protection might not be adequate; immunity might develop too slowly to be effective in time, the antibodies might not disable the pathogen completely, or there might be multiple strains of the pathogen, not all of which are equally susceptible to the immune reaction. However, even a partial, late, or weak immunity, such as a one resulting from cross-immunity to a strain other than the target strain, may mitigate an infection, resulting in a lower [mortality rate](#), lower [morbidity](#), and faster recovery.

[Adjuvants](#) commonly are used to boost immune response, particularly for older people (50–75 years and up), whose immune response to a simple vaccine may have weakened.^[21]

The [efficacy](#) or performance of the vaccine is dependent on a number of factors:

- the disease itself (for some diseases vaccination performs better than for others)
- the strain of vaccine (some vaccines are specific to, or at least most effective against, particular strains of the disease)^[22]
- whether the [vaccination schedule](#) has been properly observed.
- idiosyncratic response to vaccination; some individuals are "non-responders" to certain vaccines, meaning that they do not generate antibodies even after being vaccinated correctly.
- assorted factors such as ethnicity, age, or genetic predisposition.

If a vaccinated individual does develop the disease vaccinated against ([breakthrough infection](#)), the disease is likely to be less virulent than in unvaccinated victims.^[23]

The following are important considerations in the effectiveness of a vaccination program:^[24]

1. careful modeling to anticipate the effect that an immunization campaign will have on the epidemiology of the disease in the medium to long term.
2. ongoing surveillance for the relevant disease following introduction of a new vaccine.
3. maintenance of high immunization rates, even when a disease has become rare.

In 1958, there were 763,094 cases of measles in the [United States](#); 552 deaths resulted.^{[25][26]} After the introduction of new vaccines, the number of cases dropped to fewer than 150 per year (median of 56).^[26] In early 2008, there were 64 suspected cases of measles. Fifty-four of those infections were associated with importation from another country, although only 13% were actually acquired outside the United States; 63 of the 64 individuals either had never been vaccinated against measles or were uncertain whether they had been vaccinated.^[26]

Vaccines led to the eradication of [smallpox](#), one of the most contagious and deadly diseases in humans.^[27] Other diseases such as rubella, [polio](#), measles, mumps, [chickenpox](#), and [typhoid](#) are nowhere near as common as they were a hundred years ago thanks to widespread vaccination programs. As long as the vast majority of people are vaccinated, it is much more difficult for an outbreak of disease to occur, let alone spread. This effect is called [herd immunity](#). Polio, which is transmitted only between humans, is targeted by an extensive [eradication campaign](#) that has seen endemic polio restricted to only parts of three countries ([Afghanistan](#), [Nigeria](#), and [Pakistan](#)).^[28] However, the difficulty of reaching all children as well as cultural misunderstandings have caused the anticipated eradication date to be missed several times.

Vaccines also help prevent the development of antibiotic resistance. For example, by greatly reducing the incidence of pneumonia caused by [Streptococcus pneumoniae](#), vaccine programs have greatly reduced the prevalence of infections resistant to penicillin or other first-line antibiotics.^[29]

The measles vaccine is estimated to prevent 1 million deaths every year.^[30]

Adverse effects

Vaccination given to children, adolescents, or adults is generally safe.^{[31][32]} Adverse effects, if any, are generally mild.^[33] The rate of side effects depends on the vaccine in question.^[33] Some common side effects include fever, pain around the injection site, and muscle aches.^[33] Additionally, some individuals may be allergic to ingredients in the vaccine.^[34] [MMR vaccine](#) is rarely associated with [febrile seizures](#).^[32]

Severe side effects are extremely rare.^[32] [Varicella vaccine](#) is rarely associated with complications in [immunodeficient](#) individuals and [rotavirus vaccines](#) are moderately associated with [intussusception](#).^[32]

At least 19 countries have no-fault compensation programs to provide compensation for those suffering severe adverse effects of vaccination.^[35] The [United States](#)' program is known as the [National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) employs the [Vaccine Damage Payment](#).

Types

Vaccines contain dead or inactivated organisms or purified products derived from them.

There are several types of vaccines in use.^[36] These represent different strategies used to try to reduce the risk of illness while retaining the ability to induce a beneficial immune response.

Inactivated

Some vaccines contain inactivated, but previously virulent, micro-organisms that have been destroyed with chemicals, heat, or radiation.^[37] Examples include the IPV [polio vaccine](#), [hepatitis A](#)

[vaccine](#), [rabies vaccine](#) and most [influenza vaccines](#).^[38]

Attenuated

Some vaccines contain live, [attenuated](#) microorganisms. Many of these are active [viruses](#) that have been cultivated under conditions that disable their virulent properties, or that use closely related but less dangerous organisms to produce a broad immune response. Although most attenuated vaccines are viral, some are bacterial in nature. Examples include the viral diseases [yellow fever](#), [measles](#), [mumps](#), and [rubella](#), and the bacterial disease [typhoid](#). The live *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* vaccine developed by Calmette and Guérin is not made of a [contagious](#) strain but contains a virulently modified strain called [BCG](#) used to elicit an immune response to the vaccine. The live attenuated vaccine containing strain *Yersinia pestis* EV is used for plague immunization. Attenuated vaccines have some advantages and disadvantages. Attenuated, or live, weakened, vaccines typically provoke more durable immunological responses. But they may not be safe for use in immunocompromised individuals, and on rare occasions mutate to a virulent form and cause disease.^[39]

Toxoid

[Toxoid](#) vaccines are made from inactivated toxic compounds that cause illness rather than the micro-organism.^[40] Examples of toxoid-based vaccines include [tetanus](#) and [diphtheria](#). Toxoid vaccines are known for their efficacy.^[38] Not all toxoids are for micro-organisms; for example, *Crotalus atrox* toxoid is used to vaccinate dogs against [rattlesnake](#) bites.^[41]

Subunit

Rather than introducing an inactivated or attenuated micro-organism to an immune system (which would constitute a whole-agent vaccine), a [subunit](#) vaccine uses a fragment of it to create an immune response. Examples include the subunit vaccine against [hepatitis B virus](#) that is composed of only the surface proteins of the virus (previously extracted from the [blood serum](#) of chronically infected patients, but now produced by [recombination](#) of the viral genes into [yeast](#))^[42] or as an [edible algae vaccine](#), the [virus-like particle](#) (VLP) vaccine against [human papillomavirus](#) (HPV) that is composed of the viral major [capsid](#) protein,^[43] and the [hemagglutinin](#) and [neuraminidase](#) subunits of the [influenza](#) virus.^[38] A subunit vaccine is being used for plague immunization.^[44]

Conjugate

Certain bacteria have [polysaccharide](#) outer coats that are poorly [immunogenic](#). By linking these outer coats to proteins (e.g., toxins), the [immune system](#) can be led to recognize the polysaccharide as if it were a protein antigen. This approach is used in the *Haemophilus influenzae* type B vaccine.^[45]

Heterotypic

Also known as [heterologous](#) or Jennerian vaccines, these are vaccines that are pathogens of other animals that either do not cause disease or cause mild disease in the organism being treated. The classic example is Jenner's use of cowpox to protect against smallpox. A current example is the use of [BCG vaccine](#) made from *Mycobacterium bovis* to protect against human tuberculosis.^[46]

Experimental

A number of innovative vaccines are also in development and in use:

- [Dendritic cell vaccines](#) combine [dendritic cells](#) with antigens in order to present the antigens to the body's white blood cells, thus stimulating an immune reaction. These vaccines have shown some positive preliminary results for treating brain tumors^[47] and are also tested in malignant melanoma.^[48]

- [DNA vaccination](#)– The proposed mechanism is the insertion and [expression](#) of viral or bacterial DNA in human or animal cells (enhanced by the use of [electroporation](#)), triggering immune system recognition. Some cells of the immune system that recognize the proteins expressed will mount an attack against these proteins and cells expressing them. Because these cells live for a very long time, if the [pathogen](#) that normally expresses these proteins is encountered at a later time, they will be attacked instantly by the immune system. One potential advantage of DNA vaccines is that they are very easy to produce and store.

- [Recombinant](#) vector– by combining the physiology of one micro-organism and the [DNA](#) of another, immunity can be created against diseases that have complex infection processes. An example is the [RVSV-ZEBOV vaccine](#) licensed to Merck that is being used in 2018 to combat [ebola in Congo](#).^[49]

- [RNA vaccine](#) is a novel type of vaccine which is composed of the nucleic acid RNA, packaged within a vector such as lipid nanoparticles. A number of RNA vaccines are under development to combat the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).

- [T-cell receptor](#) peptide vaccines are under development for several diseases using models of [Valley Fever](#), [stomatitis](#), and [atopic dermatitis](#). These peptides have been shown to modulate [cytokine](#) production and improve cell-mediated immunity.

- Targeting of identified bacterial proteins that are involved in complement inhibition would neutralize the key bacterial virulence mechanism.^[50]

- The use of [plasmids](#) has been validated in preclinical studies as a protective vaccine strategy for cancer and infectious diseases. However, in human studies, this approach has failed to provide clinically relevant benefit. The overall efficacy of plasmid DNA immunization depends on increasing the plasmid's

[immunogenicity](#) while also correcting for factors involved in the specific activation of immune effector cells.^[51]

While most vaccines are created using inactivated or attenuated compounds from microorganisms, [synthetic vaccines](#) are composed mainly or wholly of synthetic peptides, carbohydrates, or antigens.

Valence

Vaccines may be *monovalent* or *multivalent*. A monovalent vaccine is designed to immunize against a single antigen or single microorganism.^[52] A multivalent or polyvalent vaccine is designed to immunize against two or more strains of the same microorganism, or against two or more microorganisms.^[53] The valency of a multivalent vaccine may be denoted with a Greek or Latin prefix. In certain cases, a monovalent vaccine may be preferable for rapidly developing a strong immune response.^[54]

When two or more vaccines are mixed together in the same formulation, the two vaccines can interfere. This most frequently occurs with live attenuated vaccines, where one of the vaccine components is more robust than the others and suppresses the growth and immune response to the other components. This phenomenon was first noted in the trivalent Sabin [polio vaccine](#), where the amount of serotype 2 virus in the vaccine had to be reduced to stop it from interfering with the take of the serotype 1 and 3 viruses in the vaccine.^[55] This phenomenon has also been found to be a problem with the [dengue](#) vaccines currently being researched, where the DEN-3 serotype was found to predominate and suppress the response to DEN-1, -2 and -4 serotypes.^[56]

Other contents

Adjuvants

Vaccines typically contain one or more [adjuvants](#), used to boost the immune response. Tetanus toxoid, for instance, is usually adsorbed onto [alum](#). This presents the antigen in such a way as to produce a greater action than the simple aqueous tetanus toxoid. People who have an adverse reaction to adsorbed tetanus toxoid may be given the simple vaccine when the time comes for a booster.^[57]

In the preparation for the 1990 Persian Gulf campaign, whole cell [pertussis](#) vaccine was used as an adjuvant for [anthrax](#) vaccine. This produces a more rapid immune response than giving only the anthrax vaccine, which is of some benefit if exposure might be imminent.^[58]

Preservatives

Vaccines may also contain preservatives to prevent contamination with [bacteria](#) or [fungi](#). Until recent years, the preservative [thiomersal](#) was used in many vaccines that did not contain live virus. As of

2005, the only childhood vaccine in the U.S. that contains thiomersal in greater than trace amounts is the influenza vaccine,^[59] which is currently recommended only for children with certain risk factors.^[60] Single-dose influenza vaccines supplied in the UK do not list thiomersal in the ingredients. Preservatives may be used at various stages of production of vaccines, and the most sophisticated methods of measurement might detect traces of them in the finished product, as they may in the environment and population as a whole.^[61]

Many vaccines need preservatives to prevent serious adverse effects such as [Staphylococcus](#) infection, which in one 1928 incident killed 12 of 21 children inoculated with a [diphtheria](#) vaccine that lacked a preservative.^[62] Several preservatives are available, including thiomersal, [phenoxethanol](#), and [formaldehyde](#). Thiomersal is more effective against bacteria, has a better shelf-life, and improves vaccine stability, potency, and safety; but, in the U.S., the [European Union](#), and a few other affluent countries, it is no longer used as a preservative in childhood vaccines, as a precautionary measure due to its [mercury](#) content.^[63] Although [controversial claims](#) have been made that thiomersal contributes to [autism](#), no convincing scientific evidence supports these claims.^[64] Furthermore, a 10–11 year study of 657,461 children found that the MMR vaccine does not cause autism and actually reduced the risk of autism by 7%.^{[65][66]}

Excipients

Beside the active vaccine itself, the following [excipients](#) and residual manufacturing compounds are present or may be present in vaccine preparations.^[67]

- [Aluminum](#) salts or gels are added as [adjuvants](#). Adjuvants are added to promote an earlier, more potent response, and more persistent immune response to the vaccine; they allow for a lower vaccine dosage.
- [Antibiotics](#) are added to some vaccines to prevent the growth of bacteria during production and storage of the vaccine.
- Egg [protein](#) is present in influenza and yellow fever vaccines as they are prepared using chicken eggs. Other proteins may be present.
- [Formaldehyde](#) is used to inactivate bacterial products for toxoid vaccines. Formaldehyde is also used to inactivate unwanted viruses and kill bacteria that might contaminate the vaccine during production.
- [Monosodium glutamate](#) (MSG) and 2-[phenoxethanol](#) are used as stabilizers in a few vaccines to help the vaccine remain unchanged when the vaccine is exposed to heat, light, acidity, or humidity.
- [Thiomersal](#) is a mercury-containing antimicrobial that is added to vials of vaccine that

contain more than one dose to prevent contamination and growth of potentially harmful bacteria. Due to the controversy surrounding thiomersal it has been removed from most vaccines except multi-use influenza, where it was reduced to levels so that a single dose contained less than 1 micro-gram of mercury, a level similar to eating 10 g of canned tuna.^[68]

Nomenclature

Various fairly standardized abbreviations for vaccine names have developed, although the standardization is by no means centralized or global. For example, the vaccine names used in the United States have well-established abbreviations that are also widely known and used elsewhere. An extensive list of them provided in a sortable table and freely accessible, is available at a US [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) web page.^[69] The page explains that "The abbreviations [in] this table (Column 3) were standardized jointly by staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [ACIP](#) Work Groups, the editor of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR), the editor of *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* (the Pink Book), ACIP members, and liaison organizations to the ACIP."^[69]

Some examples are "DTaP" for diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine, "DT" for diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and "Td" for tetanus and diphtheria toxoids. At its page on tetanus vaccination,^[70] the CDC further explains that "Upper-case letters in these abbreviations denote full-strength doses of diphtheria (D) and tetanus (T) toxoids and pertussis (P) vaccine. Lower-case "d" and "p" denote reduced doses of diphtheria and pertussis used in the adolescent/adult-formulations. The 'a' in DTaP and Tdap stands for 'acellular,' meaning that the pertussis component contains only a part of the pertussis organism."^[70]

Another list of established vaccine abbreviations is at the CDC's page called "Vaccine Acronyms and Abbreviations", with abbreviations used on U.S. immunization records.^[71] The [United States Adopted Name](#) system has some conventions for the [word order](#) of vaccine names, placing [head nouns](#) first and [adjectives postpositively](#). This is why the USAN for "OPV" is "poliovirus vaccine live oral" rather than "oral poliovirus vaccine".

Schedule

In order to provide the best protection, children are recommended to receive vaccinations as soon as their immune systems are sufficiently developed to respond to particular vaccines, with additional "booster" shots often required to achieve "full immunity". This has led to the development of complex vaccination schedules. In the United States,

the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#), which recommends schedule additions for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), recommends routine vaccination of children against^[73] [hepatitis A](#), [hepatitis B](#), polio, mumps, measles, rubella, [diphtheria](#), [pertussis](#), [tetanus](#), [HiB](#), chickenpox, [rotavirus](#), [influenza](#), [meningococcal disease](#) and [pneumonia](#).^[74]

The large number of vaccines and boosters recommended (up to 24 injections by age two) has led to problems with achieving full compliance. In order to combat declining compliance rates, various notification systems have been instituted and a number of combination injections are now marketed (e.g., [Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine](#) and [MMRV vaccine](#)), which provide protection against multiple diseases.

Besides recommendations for infant vaccinations and boosters, many specific vaccines are recommended for other ages or for repeated injections throughout life—most commonly for measles, tetanus, influenza, and pneumonia. Pregnant women are often screened for continued resistance to rubella. The [human papillomavirus](#) vaccine is recommended in the U.S. (as of 2011)^[75] and UK (as of 2009).^[76] Vaccine recommendations for the elderly concentrate on pneumonia and influenza, which are more deadly to that group. In 2006, a vaccine was introduced against [shingles](#), a disease caused by the chickenpox virus, which usually affects the elderly.

Economics of development

Main article: [Economics of vaccines](#)

One challenge in vaccine development is economic: Many of the diseases most demanding a vaccine, including [HIV](#), [malaria](#) and tuberculosis, exist principally in poor countries. Pharmaceutical firms and [biotechnology](#) companies have little incentive to develop vaccines for these diseases because there is little revenue potential. Even in more affluent countries, financial returns are usually minimal and the financial and other risks are great.^[77]

Most vaccine development to date has relied on "push" funding by government, universities and non-profit organizations.^[78] Many vaccines have been highly cost effective and beneficial for [public health](#).^[79] The number of vaccines actually administered has risen dramatically in recent decades.^[80] This increase, particularly in the number of different vaccines administered to children before entry into schools may be due to government mandates and support, rather than economic incentive.^[81]

Patents

The filing of [patents](#) on vaccine development processes can also be viewed as an obstacle to the development of new vaccines. Because of the weak protection offered through a patent on the final product, the protection of the innovation regarding vaccines is often made through the patent of processes used in the

development of new vaccines as well as the protection of [secrecy](#).^[82]

According to the World Health Organization, the biggest barrier to local vaccine production in less developed countries has not been patents, but the substantial financial, infrastructure, and workforce expertise requirements needed for market entry. Vaccines are complex mixtures of biological compounds, and unlike the case of drugs, there are no true generic vaccines. The vaccine produced by a new facility must undergo complete clinical testing for safety and efficacy similar to that undergone by that produced by the original manufacturer. For most vaccines, specific processes have been patented. These can be circumvented by alternative manufacturing methods, but this required R & D infrastructure and a suitably skilled workforce. In the case of a few relatively new vaccines such as the human papillomavirus vaccine, the patents may impose an additional barrier.^[83]

Production

Vaccine production has several stages. First, the antigen itself is generated. Viruses are grown either on primary cells such as [chicken eggs](#) (e.g., for influenza) or on continuous cell lines such as cultured human cells (e.g., for [hepatitis A](#)).^[84] Bacteria are grown in [bioreactors](#) (e.g., *Haemophilus influenzae* type b). Likewise, a recombinant protein derived from the viruses or bacteria can be generated in yeast, bacteria, or cell cultures.^{[85][86]}

After the antigen is generated, it is isolated from the cells used to generate it. A virus may need to be inactivated, possibly with no further purification required. Recombinant proteins need many operations involving ultrafiltration and column chromatography. Finally, the vaccine is formulated by adding adjuvant, stabilizers, and preservatives as needed. The adjuvant enhances the immune response of the antigen, stabilizers increase the storage life, and preservatives allow the use of multidose vials.^{[85][86]} Combination vaccines are harder to develop and produce, because of potential incompatibilities and interactions among the antigens and other ingredients involved.^[87]

The final stage in vaccine manufacture before distribution is [fill and finish](#), which is the process of filling vials with vaccines and packaging them for distribution. Although this is a conceptually simple part of the vaccine manufacture process, it is often a bottleneck in the process of distributing and administering vaccines.^{[88][89][90]}

Vaccine production techniques are evolving. Cultured mammalian cells are expected to become increasingly important, compared to conventional options such as chicken eggs, due to greater productivity and low incidence of problems with contamination. Recombination technology that

produces genetically detoxified vaccine is expected to grow in popularity for the production of bacterial vaccines that use toxoids. Combination vaccines are expected to reduce the quantities of antigens they contain, and thereby decrease undesirable interactions, by using [pathogen-associated molecular patterns](#).^[87]

In 2010, India produced 60 percent of the world's vaccine worth about \$900 million (€670 million).^[91]

Delivery systems

The development of new delivery systems raises the hope of vaccines that are safer and more efficient to deliver and administer. Lines of research include [liposomes](#) and [ISCOM](#) (immune stimulating complex).^[92]

Notable developments in vaccine delivery technologies have included oral vaccines. Early attempts to apply oral vaccines showed varying degrees of promise, beginning early in the 20th century, at a time when the very possibility of an effective oral antibacterial vaccine was controversial.^[93] By the 1930s there was increasing interest in the prophylactic value of an oral [typhoid fever](#) vaccine for example.^[94]

An oral polio vaccine turned out to be effective when vaccinations were administered by volunteer staff without formal training; the results also demonstrated increased ease and efficiency of administering the vaccines. Effective oral vaccines have many advantages; for example, there is no risk of blood contamination. Vaccines intended for oral administration need not be liquid, and as solids, they commonly are more stable and less prone to damage or to spoilage by freezing in transport and storage.^[95] Such stability reduces the need for a "[cold chain](#)": the resources required to keep vaccines within a restricted temperature range from the manufacturing stage to the point of administration, which, in turn, may decrease costs of vaccines.

A microneedle approach, which is still in stages of development, uses "pointed projections fabricated into arrays that can create vaccine delivery pathways through the skin".^[96]

An experimental needle-free^[97] vaccine delivery system is undergoing animal testing.^{[98][99]} A stamp-size patch similar to an [adhesive bandage](#) contains about 20,000 microscopic projections per square cm.^[100] This [dermal](#) administration potentially increases the effectiveness of vaccination, while requiring less vaccine than injection.^[101]

Veterinary medicine

Vaccinations of animals are used both to prevent their contracting diseases and to prevent transmission of disease to humans.^[102] Both animals kept as pets and animals raised as livestock are routinely vaccinated. In some instances, wild populations may be vaccinated. This is sometimes accomplished with

vaccine-laced food spread in a disease-prone area and has been used to attempt to control [rabies](#) in [raccoons](#).

Where rabies occurs, rabies vaccination of dogs may be required by law. Other canine vaccines include [canine distemper](#), [canine parvovirus](#), [infectious canine hepatitis](#), [adenovirus-2](#), [leptospirosis](#), [bordatella](#), canine [parainfluenza virus](#), and [Lyme disease](#), among others.

Cases of veterinary vaccines used in humans have been documented, whether intentional or accidental, with some cases of resultant illness, most notably with [brucellosis](#).^[103] However, the reporting of such cases is rare and very little has been studied about the safety and results of such practices. With the advent of aerosol vaccination in veterinary clinics for companion animals, human exposure to pathogens that are not naturally carried in humans, such as [Bordetella bronchiseptica](#), has likely increased in recent years.^[103] In some cases, most notably [rabies](#), the parallel veterinary vaccine against a pathogen may be as much as [orders of magnitude](#) more economical than the human one.

DIVA vaccines

DIVA (Differentiation of Infected from Vaccinated Animals), also known as SIVA (Segregation of Infected from Vaccinated Animals), vaccines make it possible to differentiate between infected and vaccinated animals.

DIVA vaccines carry at least one [epitope](#) less than the microorganisms circulating in the field. An accompanying diagnostic test that detects antibody against that epitope allows us to actually make that differentiation.

The first DIVA vaccines (formerly termed [marker vaccines](#) and since 1999 coined as DIVA vaccines) and companion diagnostic tests have been developed by J.T. van Oirschot and colleagues at the Central Veterinary Institute in Lelystad, The Netherlands.^{[104] [105]} They found that some existing vaccines against [pseudorabies](#) (also termed Aujeszky's disease) had deletions in their viral genome (among which was the gE gene). Monoclonal antibodies were produced against that deletion and selected to develop an ELISA that demonstrated antibodies against gE. In addition, novel genetically engineered gE-negative vaccines were constructed.^[106] Along the same lines, DIVA vaccines and companion diagnostic tests against bovine herpesvirus 1 infections have been developed.^{[105][107]}

The DIVA strategy has been applied in various countries and successfully eradicated pseudorabies virus. Swine populations were intensively vaccinated and monitored by the companion diagnostic test and, subsequently, the infected pigs were removed from the population. Bovine herpesvirus 1 DIVA vaccines are also widely used in practice.

Scientists have put and still, are putting much effort in applying the DIVA principle to a wide range of infectious diseases, such as, for example, classical swine fever,^[108] avian influenza,^[109] Actinobacillus pleuropneumonia^[110] and Salmonella infections in pigs.^[111]

History

Prior to the introduction of vaccination with material from cases of cowpox (heterotypic immunisation), smallpox could be prevented by deliberate [inoculation](#) of smallpox virus, later referred to as [variolation](#) to distinguish it from [smallpox vaccination](#). The earliest hints of the practice of inoculation for smallpox in China come during the 10th century.^[112] The Chinese also practiced the oldest documented use of variolation, dating back to the fifteenth century. They implemented a method of "nasal [insufflation](#)" administered by blowing powdered smallpox material, usually scabs, up the nostrils. Various insufflation techniques have been recorded throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries within China.^{[113]:60} Two reports on the Chinese practice of [inoculation](#) were received by the [Royal Society](#) in London in 1700; one by Dr. [Martin Lister](#) who received a report by an employee of the [East India Company](#) stationed in China and another by [Clopton Havers](#).^[114]

Independently of the East India Company's report, sometime during the late 1760s whilst serving his apprenticeship as a surgeon/apothecary [Edward Jenner](#) learned of a story, common in rural areas, that dairy workers would never have the often-fatal or disfiguring disease [smallpox](#), because they had already contracted [cowpox](#), which has a very mild effect in humans. In 1796, Jenner took pus from the hand of a milkmaid with cowpox, scratched it into the arm of an 8-year-old boy, [James Phipps](#), and six weeks later inoculated ([variolated](#)) the boy with smallpox, afterwards observing that he did not catch smallpox.^{[115][116]} Jenner extended his studies and in 1798 reported that his vaccine was safe in children and adults and could be transferred from arm-to-arm reducing reliance on uncertain supplies from infected cows.^[12] Since vaccination with cowpox was much safer than smallpox inoculation,^[117] the latter, though still widely practiced in England, was banned in 1840.^[118]

Following on from Jenner's work, the second generation of vaccines was introduced in the 1880s by [Louis Pasteur](#) who developed vaccines for chicken cholera and [anthrax](#),^[13] and from the late nineteenth century vaccines were considered a matter of national prestige, and compulsory vaccination laws were passed.^[115]

The twentieth century saw the introduction of several successful vaccines, including those against

[diphtheria](#), [measles](#), [mumps](#), and [rubella](#). Major achievements included the development of the [polio vaccine](#) in the 1950s and the [eradication of smallpox](#) during the 1960s and 1970s. [Maurice Hilleman](#) was the most prolific of the developers of the vaccines in the twentieth century. As vaccines became more common, many people began taking them for granted. However, vaccines remain elusive for many important diseases, including [herpes simplex](#), [malaria](#), [gonorrhea](#), and [HIV](#).^{[115][119]}

Vaccines have eliminated naturally occurring [smallpox](#), and nearly eliminated [polio](#), while other diseases, such as [typhus](#), [rotavirus](#), [hepatitis A](#) and [B](#) and others are well controlled. Conventional vaccines cover a small number of diseases, but are not effective at controlling many other infections.

Generations of vaccines

First generation vaccines are whole-organism vaccines – either live and [weakened](#), or killed forms.^[120] Live, attenuated vaccines, such as smallpox and polio vaccines, are able to induce [killer T-cell](#) (T_C or CTL) responses, [helper T-cell](#) (T_H) responses and [antibody immunity](#). However, attenuated forms of a [pathogen](#) can convert to a dangerous form and may cause disease in [immunocompromised](#) vaccine recipients (such as those with [AIDS](#)). While killed vaccines do not have this risk, they cannot generate specific killer T cell responses and may not work at all for some diseases.^[120]

Second generation vaccines were developed to reduce the risks from live vaccines. These are subunit vaccines, consisting of specific [protein antigens](#) (such as [tetanus](#) or [diphtheria toxoid](#)) or [recombinant](#) protein components (such as the hepatitis B surface antigen). They can generate T_H and antibody responses, but not killer T cell responses.

[DNA vaccines](#) are examples third generation vaccines.^{[120][121]} In 2016 a DNA vaccine for the [Zika virus](#) began testing at the [National Institutes of Health](#). Separately, Inovio Pharmaceuticals and GeneOne Life Science began tests of a different DNA vaccine against Zika in Miami. Manufacturing the vaccines in volume remains unsolved.^[122] Clinical trials for DNA vaccines to prevent HIV are underway.^[123]

Timeline

Trends

- Until recently, most vaccines were aimed at infants and children, but adolescents and adults are increasingly being targeted.^{[124][125]}
- Combinations of vaccines are becoming more common; [vaccines containing five or more components](#) are used in many parts of the world.^[124]
- New methods of administering vaccines are being developed, such as skin patches, aerosols via inhalation devices, and eating genetically engineered plants.^[124]

- Vaccines are being designed to stimulate innate immune responses, as well as adaptive.^[124]

- Attempts are being made to develop vaccines to help cure chronic infections, as opposed to preventing disease.^[124]

- Vaccines are being developed to defend against bioterrorist attacks such as anthrax, plague, and smallpox.^[124]

- Appreciation for sex and pregnancy differences in vaccine responses "might change the strategies used by public health officials".^[126]

- Scientists are now trying to develop synthetic vaccines by reconstructing the outside structure of a [virus](#), this will help prevent vaccine resistance.^[127]

Principles that govern the immune response can now be used in tailor-made vaccines against many noninfectious human diseases, such as cancers and autoimmune disorders.^[128] For example, the experimental vaccine [CYT006-AngQb](#) has been investigated as a possible treatment for [high blood pressure](#).^[129] Factors that affect the trends of vaccine development include progress in translatory medicine, [demographics](#), [regulatory science](#), political, cultural, and social responses.^[130]

Plants as bioreactors for vaccine production

Transgenic plants have been identified as promising expression systems for vaccine production. Complex plants such as tobacco, potato, tomato, and banana can have genes inserted that cause them to produce vaccines usable for humans.^[131] Bananas have been developed that produce a human vaccine against [hepatitis B](#).^[132] Another example is the expression of a fusion protein in alfalfa transgenic plants for the selective directioning to antigen presenting cells, therefore increasing vaccine potency against [Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus \(BVDV\)](#).^{[133][134]}

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