

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

The benefits and risks of pandemic influenza vaccines

1. When evaluating influenza vaccine effectiveness in an at risk population, it is the *severity* of underlying comorbidities that confound the relationship between vaccination and influenza, not the presence. (this thesis)
2. The MF59 adjuvanted influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 vaccine provided limited protection against hospitalisation with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 infection. (this thesis)
3. There is no increased risk of Bell's palsy following vaccination with parenteral inactivated pandemic and seasonal influenza vaccines containing the influenza A/California/07/2009 (H1N1) strain. (this thesis)
4. Mismatches between patterns in narcolepsy diagnoses rates and pandemic influenza vaccination rates in Europe suggest that other factors than pandemic influenza vaccination should be considered as an explanation for increases observed in narcolepsy diagnoses. (this thesis)
5. Presence of detection bias (shortening of diagnosis time in exposed persons) and differential exposure misclassification (misattribution of onset dates to before exposure) could elevate risks estimates of narcolepsy following vaccination with AS03 adjuvanted influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 vaccine to the degree seen in studies evaluating the signal. (this thesis)
6. Unlike as with drugs – where the patient experience often is determined by the benefits of the drug – with vaccines the experience of the recipient will most certainly be determined by the risks
7. The biggest challenge to the assessment and regulation of vaccines is identifying, qualifying, quantifying and communicating uncertainties as science will never provide perfect evidence.
8. For a successful technology reality must take precedence over public relations as for nature cannot be fooled. [Richard Feynman]
9. Show people clouds - they will see animals. Show people adverse events after vaccination – they will see associations.
10. The academic mind, as we know, is sometimes capable of assuming an aggressive attitude. The official mind, on the contrary, is and has to be, expert in the art of self-defence. [Bobby Fisher]
11. If you risk nothing you risk everything. [Geena Davis]