

Causes of the Resurgence of Measles and Measures to Control the Infection Based on Global and Regional Statistics

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Abstract: Measles is a highly contagious viral disease, mainly affecting children and capable of causing severe complications. In recent years, a global resurgence of measles outbreaks has been observed, primarily due to low vaccination coverage, weaknesses in healthcare systems, and global migration. This article analyzes the causes of the renewed spread of measles and discusses preventive measures and strategies for controlling the infection. The importance of vaccination, raising public awareness, and improving healthcare services to reduce disease transmission is emphasized. The article is based on global and regional statistical data and highlights the significance of international cooperation in measles prevention.

Keywords: measles, epidemic, vaccination, resurgence, prevention

Introduction

Measles is an infectious viral disease that mainly affects children and may lead to serious complications. In the 20th century, thanks to the development of the vaccine, measles was nearly brought under control worldwide. However, in recent years, outbreaks have reappeared in several regions. This situation poses a serious threat not only to healthcare systems but also to the global population.

The main causes of the resurgence include low vaccination rates, shortcomings in healthcare systems, global migration, and vaccine hesitancy. Therefore, effective measures must be taken to regain control over the disease.

Current Measles Statistics

According to recent data, approximately 10.3 million measles cases were reported worldwide in 2023. In the same year, 107,500 people—mostly children under the age of five—died from measles. The rise in measles cases is most evident in low-income countries and regions with insufficient vaccination coverage.

Vaccination remains crucial: globally, 83% of children received the first dose of the vaccine, but this level is inadequate to meet international targets.

Causes of the Resurgence

Low Vaccination Coverage

Insufficient vaccination in many regions leads to the rapid spread of measles due to the lack of herd immunity.

Healthcare System Challenges

Limited access to quality healthcare services and vaccines also contributes to the growing epidemic.

Global Migration and Population Movement

Refugee flows, tourism, and international travel facilitate cross-border transmission of the disease.

Vaccine Hesitancy and Social Factors

Misinformation on social media and public distrust of vaccines reduce immunization levels.

Prevention and Control Measures

Expansion of Vaccination

Vaccinating all children and unvaccinated adults is the most effective way to reduce disease spread.

Public Awareness

Educating the population about measles and vaccination plays an essential role in preventing outbreaks.

Strengthening Healthcare Systems

Improving vaccine accessibility, monitoring, and epidemiological surveillance helps prevent epidemics.

Global Cooperation

Epidemic control requires collaboration between countries. Through WHO and regional organizations, data sharing and coordinated actions are essential.

Conclusion

The resurgence of measles poses a serious global health threat. To control the disease, it is necessary to:

- ensure vaccination of all children and unvaccinated adults;
- increase public awareness;
- strengthen healthcare systems;
- promote global cooperation.