

Delegate of Japan

Background

The concept of immunization was started in Japan in 1849 when Jenner's cowpox vaccine seed was introduced, and the current immunization law was stipulated in 1948. There have been two turning points for amendments to the immunization law: the compensation remedy for vaccine-associated adverse events in 1976, and the concept of private vaccination in 1994. In 1992, the regional Court of Tokyo, not the Supreme Court, decided the governmental responsibility on vaccine-associated adverse events, which caused the stagnation of vaccine development. In 2010, many universal vaccines became available as the recommended vaccines, but several vaccines, including mumps, zoster, hepatitis B, and rota vaccines, are still voluntary vaccines, not universal routine applications. In this report, immunization strategies and vaccine development are reviewed for each vaccine item and future vaccine concerns are discussed.

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Keywords: Vaccine, Surveillance, MMR, DPT, Voluntary vaccines, Recommended vaccines
Dawn of vaccines in Japan

The dawn of vaccinology was the first scientific systematic investigation of the cowpox vaccination by Edward Jenner in 1796, although several variations in approach were performed using dried pus from smallpox skin lesions in Central Asia, China, and Turkey [1]. Jenner's cowpox vaccination procedure was introduced into Japan in the Edo era by Philipp F.B. von Siebold. Sporadic nationwide outbreaks occurred at that time, which caused social, economic, and political stagnation, and doctors of herbal traditional medicine, studying Western modern medicine, wanted to use Jenner's cowpox vaccine as a preventive procedure for smallpox.

Vaccines made and trials for the pandemic covid-19 in Japan

Japanese drugmakers are accelerating their development of vaccines for the novel coronavirus even as foreign rivals seem to be leading the global race, with the government pushing homegrown efforts to secure stable supplies for the country.

Around 125 vaccines are currently under development globally, including 10 in human testing as of May 27, according to the World Health Organization. But given the expected

surge in demand, the Japanese government is concerned that foreign vaccines would be limited in supply and not widely available for people in Japan.

In terms of the need to secure the necessary volume, a vaccine produced domestically by a Japanese company is best," said an official of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

The Japanese government has decided to facilitate large-scale manufacturing of coronavirus vaccines by launching a subsidy program for producers, government sources said in late May. It hopes to make vaccines available to people soon after they are deemed suitable for use, they said.

Anges Inc., a Japanese biopharmaceutical startup set up by an Osaka University professor, said it will start clinical tests of its DNA vaccine, manufactured by Takara Bio Inc. as early as July, aiming to have it administered to humans around March 2021.