

Dr. Mahoney – For: *Journal of Adolescent Health* Supplement

Title: The Importance of Overcoming Barriers to Adolescent Vaccination
[Introduction]

From: “Dr. Mahoney_8_26_09.wmv” Video File

DR. MAHONEY: This journal supplement presents an interesting series of manuscripts, which focus on opportunities and challenges to the delivery of meningococcal conjugate vaccines in the context of prevention.

The supplement begins with a case vignette reminding clinicians of the challenges represented by the early detection and effective management of meningococcal disease since there is an overlap with so many other more common infections.

The vignette continues by emphasizing a number of important advantages of conjugate vaccines including a longer duration of immunity, anamnestic response, as well as reduction in nasopharyngeal carriage rates.

The second article by Dr. Pelton reviews the epidemiology of meningococcal disease as well as looking at global risk factors and rates of transmission.

Dr. Kaplan's article focuses on some of the unique challenges represented by preventive care delivery to adolescent populations. These challenges include the fact that adolescents typically have less frequent visits into various physician offices. The fact that there's often an emphasis on acute care as opposed to preventive care and unique developmental and behavioral issues in this population.

The final piece in this journal supplement by Dr. Kimmel considers the perspective of various clinicians including pediatricians, family physicians, and obstetrician-gynecologists, each of whom care for various subsegments of this adolescent population. It appears that clinician knowledge deficits represent a significant barrier in the delivery of preventive vaccination to control and prevent meningococcal disease. Finally a common theme throughout all of these pieces is an emphasis on systems factors to enhance the delivery of meningococcal conjugate vaccines.

As you read through these manuscripts contained in the special supplement, please keep in mind that the ACIP, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians all endorse vaccination of adolescents ages 11 through 18 with the meningococcal conjugate vaccine.