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VACCINES HAILED AS MEASLES DOOM

**New Injection Announced—
Doctor Says Disease Can
Now Be Conquered**

ONE-SHOT PROTECTION

**Immunization Also Halts the
Need for Gamma Globulin
to Ease Side Effects**

By HAROLD M. SCHMECK Jr.

There is no longer any excuse for the 4,000,000 or more cases of measles that develop yearly among American children, a specialist said here yesterday.

The comment was made by Dr. Saul Krugman of New York University School of Medicine during a news conference called to announce the licensing of a new live virus measles vaccine. The vaccine was put on the market yesterday by the Pitman-Moore Division of the Dow Chemical Company, Indianapolis, after authorization by the National Institute of Health.

The news conference was held at the New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63d Street.

The first live virus measles vaccine was marketed in March, 1963, by Merck & Co. Late last year two others also became available, one marketed by Eli Lilly & Co. and the other by Phillips Roxane, Inc., a subsidiary of Phillips Electronics & Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Several Available

With several effective vaccines available, Dr. Krugman said at the news conference yesterday, "there really is no longer any excuse for any child in this country to have to endure this disease."

Dr. Krugman and other speakers noted that the complications of measles can be serious and, sometimes, even fatal.

Dr. John J. Witte, an epidemiologist of the United States Public Health Service's Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, said it was estimated that there were 4,000,000 or more cases of measles yearly in the United States. He said that a significant reduction could

be expected and there was a possibility of eradicating measles.

Dr. Witte said 450 to 500 deaths a year were directly attributable to complications that develop from measles cases. Some of these deaths are caused by encephalitis — inflammation of tissues of the brain — and others by pneumonia that follows the measles attack.

Brain Damage

In about one out of every 1,000 cases of measles there is some residual brain damage, the available statistics indicate.

Dr. Morton Andelman of the Chicago Department of Health said measles was a more formidable public health problem, in terms of the disability it causes, than polio ever was.

The new vaccine, marketed under the trade name Lirugen, is given in one injection that is believed to offer long-term, probably lifetime, immunity. Wholesale price per dose will be \$2, a spokesman said. It has not been found necessary to give gamma globulin with the new vaccine to diminish the frequency of such undesirable side effects as fever or rash. Gamma globulin is often given with the other live virus measles vaccines.

Dr. Krugman, who has done epidemiological studies with the new vaccine, said it gave extremely prompt protection. The incubation period of the virus used in it is shorter than that of the "wild" measles virus, he said.

Therefore a child given the vaccination any time before, or even shortly after, exposure to measles will probably be protected.