

## MMR vaccine: debunking the myths

Radenka Kuzmanić-Šamija, University of Split – School of Medicine, University Hospital Center Split, Croatia

Active immunization is one of the greatest advances of modern medicine. Although active immunization has been a key component of public health progress in the last hundred years, some vaccines have been or still are attributed significant side effects, including neurological diseases. Because of the time correlation and vaccination of neurological symptoms, the connection is often declares causal.

With the development of new vaccines, there have been increasing reports of neurological side effects, ranging from mild epileptic seizures to severe encephalopathy and death. Concern about possible side effects is one of the main reasons for the refusal of vaccination and non-cooperation by parents. Vaccination does not seem controversial when vaccinated individuals by their own consent. When vaccination becomes massive and, in addition, prescribed or recommended by law, certain doubts and resistances arise that represent a suitable ground for the flourishing of the anti-vaccination mood. Many of the controversy over the vaccination incurred in connection with the need to protect vaccinations and children with chronic diseases so the question is whether the risk of vaccination of children with certain chronic diseases is less than the risk of natural infection.

To answer this challenge, pediatricians and other primary care physicians must be at the forefront of education and informing the population about vaccination strategy of intervention to achieve the greatest possible degree of vaccine protection of children, and at the same time avoid complications.