

Sweden opens inquiry into suspect flu vaccine

August 18 2010

Sweden's Medical Products Agency opened an inquiry Wednesday into vaccinations for swine flu made by British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline, suspected of provoking narcolepsy.

"The MPA has received six reports from health care professionals regarding [narcolepsy](#) as suspected adverse drug reaction following Pandemrix [flu vaccination](#)," it said in a statement.

"The agency will, in consultation with external experts, assess the possible relationship between the vaccination and the reported reactions."

The reports concern children aged between 12-16 years who developed symptoms compatible with narcolepsy, a chronic sleeping disorder, that occurred one to two months after vaccination against the H1N1 pandemic.

The Medical Products Agency said it was in contact with European Union member states for information on any similar reports in other countries.

Finland is also looking into the possible link between narcolepsy and the [swine flu](#) vaccination, in particular Pandemrix, following an increase in the sleeping disorder among children this spring, the Finish news agency STT said.

The preliminary results from the investigation are expected by the end of

this year.

In the European Union around 30 million people were vaccinated using Pandemrix. Sweden bought 18 million doses, which was enough to provide two injections for each person in its 9.3 million population.

According to Finland's National Health Institute, 2.5 million Finns were vaccinated against swine flu. Some 750 showed side effects, namely fevers, headaches and coughing, and one case was linked to narcolepsy.

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Citation: Sweden opens inquiry into suspect flu vaccine (2010, August 18) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2010-08-sweden-inquiry-flu-vaccine.html>

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