

[Medical Research Council \(1951\)](#). The prevention of whooping-cough by vaccination. *BMJ* 1:1463-1471.

Key passages



Allocation of Children to the Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Groups

On receipt of signed consent forms from the parents, children with no previous history of pertussis or of previous inoculation with pertussis vaccine were classified by sex and placed in one of the following age groups: 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, and 15-17 months; a few children were accepted just after they had reached the age of 18 months. For each age and sex group, sheets were previously drawn up on which vaccine letters A, B, C, and D in random order were repeated a sufficient number of times to deal with all expected volunteers in the appropriate age and sex group. As each child's name was received it was written in the first vacant space on the appropriate sheet, and the vaccine letter opposite the child's name determined what it should receive and was inserted on the child's record card.