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TUBERCULOSIS VACCINE TOO RISKY FOR HIV-INFECTED INFANTS

GENEVA – HIV-infected infants risk contracting a deadly form of tuberculosis from the bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine, instead of receiving protection against the disease, according to research published today in the international public health journal, the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*.

While the BCG vaccine is given to approximately 75% of newborn babies worldwide, a South African study has found that its harm may outweigh the benefits for HIV-infected infants. The study recommends delaying vaccination until the infant's HIV status is known.

"There is an urgent need to assess the risk versus benefits of this vaccine in settings where both HIV infection and tuberculosis burdens are high," says co-author Professor Simon Schaaf, from the Desmond Tutu TB Centre at Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

Read the research paper here: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/7/08-055657.pdf>

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- The Ethiopian Health Minister talks about a new approach to aid for health
- Spanish research shows car drivers should take a special test before riding a motorcycle
- How Asian countries are tackling multi-drug resistant tuberculosis
- Chagas disease 100 years after its discovery

- How Kenya developed services for victims of sexual violence
- Are pre-employment medical examinations useful?
- Struggling to pay the medical bills in Armenia

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For further information please contact:

Fiona Fleck

Bulletin of the World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland
Office: +41 22 791 1897
Mobile: +41 78 678 9079
E-mail: fleckf@who.int

Sarah Cumberland

Bulletin of the World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland
Office: +41 22 791 2570
Mobile: +33 6 31 66 60 32
E-mail: cumberlands@who.int

Professor Simon Schaaf

Desmond Tutu TB Centre
Department of Paediatrics and Child Health
Stellenbosch University
Tygerberg, South Africa
Office: + 27 21 938 9112
Mobile: +27 82 932 4292
E-mail: hss@sun.ac.za

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