

Vietnam suspends use of lg hepatitis B vaccine

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HANOI: Vietnam has suspended the use of a Hepatitis B vaccine manufactured by global leader LG group (the Republic of Korea), when three newborn babies suddenly died after being administered with the vaccine.

The Health Ministry has immediately halted the use of the vaccine nation-wide while they ascertain the causes of the infants' deaths, Vietnam News Agency (VNA) reported.

Dr Do Si Hien, Chairman of the National Vaccination Programme, said that between April 23 and May 7, a total of four infants went into shock after being given the vaccine.

According to statistics, usually only one case of Hepatitis B vaccine shock is found in every one million people vaccinated against the disease, he added.

According to Hien, children under 12 months of age have been vaccinated against Hepatitis B under the national vaccination programme since 1997, with the programme expanding to all regions of the country by 2003. With close to 1.5 million children being vaccinated annually, Hepatitis B vaccine has been used on millions of Vietnamese children to date. Hien warned parents to remain calm, saying that these were extremely unusual cases that related to only two batches of Hepatitis B vaccine manufactured by LG. - BERNAMA