**Transfer Factor as a “rival” vaccine to MMR**

Transfer Factor was a remains of a nutritional supplement that is sold over-the-counter as something that has the reputed action of boosting immunity.

The patent was for a measles virus-specific Transfer Factor to be used as

1. A treatment

2. A protective measure in very specific circumstances described below.

* Measles virus–specific Transfer Factor, by virtue of its published mode of action in humans, could **not** be used as a population-based vaccine and could not offer an alternative or “rival” to, or competition for, current live viral vaccines such as MMR.
* Its mode of action does not include the induction of anti-viral antibodies which is essential to the success of live measles virus vaccines.
* Its mode of action does include the induction of cellular immunity that is crucial for the clearance of virus from the body following exposure. Adequate cellular immunity is essential in avoiding serious complications of measles infection.
* Live measles vaccines (e.g. MMR) are unsafe and specifically contraindicated in children with immunodeficiency.
* In these circumstances a **safer alternative** to live measles vaccines is required.
* Any successful alternative to a live measles vaccine for protection of children with immunodeficiency would not be a ‘competitor to MMR’ since MMR is contraindicated in such circumstances, as stated above.
* Thus, in specific circumstances, i.e. in a child with an immunodeficiency, a situation where live measles virus-containing vaccines are specifically contraindicated and should not be given, measles virus-specific Transfer Factor might protect the child, not against infection like a vaccine, but against any serious consequences of measles virus infection, in circumstances where the infection might otherwise be serious or fatal.
* This is the basis of the inclusion of measles virus-specific Transfer Factor as a vaccine in the patent.
* The term **vaccine** is appropriate since the published mode of action of Transfer Factor involves the induction of a **specific immune response** in the host.

**Transfer factor and Prophylaxis**

* The scenario described above, and my reason for the inclusion of Transfer Factor as a potential “vaccine” in the patent, was precisely because of the demonstration of its efficacy in protecting children with leukemia – where a live viral vaccine would be contraindicated – against chicken pox with a chicken pox-specific Transfer Factor[[1]](#footnote-1). It did not protect the children *catching* chicken pox as a live viral vaccine would, but it protected them against the serious complications of chicken pox. When the potential use of this Transfer factor was subsequently considered by the US vaccine regulators and National Institutes of Health as a possible population-based vaccine it was rejected in favor of a live chicken pox vaccine, presumably for the reasons stated above.
* Thus Deer is completely wrong when he stated that I was creating a rival vaccine to MMR.
* A mundane perusal of the relevant scientific literature would have been sufficient to establish the facts set out above.
* Deer is fully aware of these facts since they were stated at the GMC when he was in attendance.
* The above notwithstanding, a measles vaccine in whatever form, could not compete with MMR since it does not offer protection against mumps and rubella. An alternative measles vaccine could be perceived as a competitor for monovalent measles vaccine but I have maintained my support for the use of the single measles vaccine.
1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)