

DTP and NCVIA

Much of the concern centered around vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP), which were blamed for children's disabilities and developmental delays. This led to a massive increase in vaccine-related tort litigation. Whereas between 1978 and 1981 only nine product-liability suits were filed against DTP manufacturers, by the mid-1980's the suits numbered more than 200 each year.⁶ This destabilized the DTP vaccine market, causing two of the three domestic manufacturers to withdraw; and the remaining manufacturer, Lederle Laboratories, estimated that its potential tort liability exceeded its annual sales by a factor of 200.⁷ Vaccine shortages arose when Lederle had production problems in 1984.⁸

Bruesewitz Et Al. v. Wyeth LLC, Supreme Court Opinion, page 227

<https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/service/lj/usrep/usrep562/usrep562223/usrep562223.pdf>

Nonetheless, reservations about DTP safety, and to lesser extent, the effectiveness of selected vaccines, had global impact. In the 1970s and 1980s, Japan suspended their pertussis vaccination program because of safety concerns.²⁸ In Sweden, effectiveness concerns led to a suspension of Sweden's pertussis vaccination program.²⁹ Other countries such as the United Kingdom, Italy, Ireland, Australia, West Germany and Russia saw substantially reduced pertussis vaccine acceptance within their populations.^{7,24} In the US by the mid-1980s, lawsuits related to vaccine safety led several manufacturers to withdraw their DTP vaccines and paved the way to the US National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act in 1986. This act provides funds to compensate for adverse events following immunization.²¹ Faced with such widespread apprehension surrounding DTP safety, great efforts were made to develop acellular pertussis vaccines.

Licensed pertussis vaccines in the United States, History and Current State page 2685

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4975064/pdf/khvi-10-09-972884.pdf>