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Special Report

Six kids get drug reaction, FDA seizes antibiotics

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Six children in a BMC-run hospital in Vikhroli developed severe drug reaction after being injected antibiotics on Tuesday. Children aged between 1.5 and 12 years were being treated in the paediatric ward of Mahatma Phule Hospital.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials on Wednesday visited the hospital and collected samples of eight items, including drugs, syringes and needles.

Dr Vidya Thakur, in-charge of BMC peripheral hospitals in the central suburbs, said, "Two children were vomiting, and the others had chills. They may have developed an adverse reaction to the antibiotics."

One of the six, Vikhroli resident Jayesh Mhaske, 11, was admitted on November 26 after contracting dengue. His father Dhondhiram, who works as a private bus driver, said, "My son was being treated in the hospital for close to a week. On Tuesday around 11.30pm, after certain antibiotic injections were administered to him and others, they start experiencing severe chills and developed high fever."

The youngest child, Dhondhiram said, slipped into convulsions and was critical. "Parents were worried... there was wailing and crying all around," he added.

While five children — Saniya Bano, 3, Nagesh Dhongade, 9, Anjali Shinde, 10, Amit Kale, 11, and Jayesh, 11 — were shifted to Sion hospital around 12.30am, the sixth, a one-year-old, was taken to a private hospital in Kanjur-marg by his parents.

FDA officials have collected vials of ondasetron (an anti-vomiting drug), ranitidine (an antacid), amoxicillin clavulanic acid, and a combination of cephazone and sulbactam (antibiotic injections) for testing.

BMC hospitals have been instructed to stop use of the batches of these drugs. "The samples will be tested for contamination due to pyrogen, sterility and active drug content to analyse if they were substandard or spurious," said Praveen Mundada, drug inspector (zone IV), FDA.

Dr Avinash Supe, dean, Sion hospital said, "The children are stable and under observation. We will keep them for one more day and observe their health."



One of the six children, who developed adverse drug reaction, recuperates at Sion hospital on Wednesday

Regulatory