

Cancer vaccine has left my daughter crippled

A TEENAGE girl was crippled with serious joint pains shortly after she was given the anti-cancer vaccine.

Deborah Halliday (14) says she was unable to walk the length of her house after being injected with the cervical cancer vaccine in a routine school vaccination.

She is one of a worrying number of teenagers being referred to hospital rheumatologists after being vaccinated with the anti cervical cancer vaccine Cervarix.

They say they are suffering cardiac symptoms and crippling joint pains.

Last week Deborah's mum Sherrell hit out at health and school authorities for not warning the families of potential crippling side-effects.

The UK medicines safety watchdog, the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Products Regulatory Agency, admit that it has received over 5780 suspected ADR reports concerning 12,878 reactions in girls given the jab.

And two MSPs have written to Scottish Health minister Nicola Sturgeon asking why the families were not warned of potential side effects.

Cervarix was hailed as the wonder drug that would prevent hundreds of deaths in the UK from cervical cancer.

Sherrell Halliday, from Cawdor, says: "My daughter has had chest and joint pains so bad, that we feared she had developed a heart problem or that she would end up in a wheelchair. Every step was painful and difficult.

"She went from being an active sporty teen to one who couldn't walk the length of her house some days.

"Yet, the letter which came home from school to tell

Mum's anger after year of exhaustion and misery

EXCLUSIVE

By Janet Boyle

us about the vaccine only mentioned that our daughter might have a sore arm or feel faint on the day.

"Our GP feared she had developed an inflammation known as arthralgia and she was referred to a rheumatologist, in a wheelchair."

Just over a year on, Deborah is still recovering. She attends school intermittently, is easily exhausted and her mum take her swimming to ease the joint pain.

The official side-effects listed by the makers, GlaxoSmithKline, have a long list of illnesses linked to inflammation and exhaustion.

"I'm angry we hadn't been told. I wish I had checked it out the drug company website for side effects myself because it's heart-breaking watching her struggle to cope," says Sherrell.

Deborah's case mirrors that of several other young women now reporting painful reactions to the vaccine.

MSP for Aberdeen West Dennis Robertson contacted Scottish Health minister, Nicola Robertson because one of his constituents continues to suffer exhaustion, chest pain and crippling leg spasms three years after Cervarix.

Constituency office manager, Gwyneth

■ Deborah Halliday with Mum Sherrelle.



Petrie said: "He asked whether there are further investigations proposed into the safety of the vaccine. He also forwarded the constituent's concerns about possible adverse reactions not being shown to parents until after the first injection is administered."

The vaccine was introduced to spare hundreds

of young UK women the same fate as reality TV star Jade Goody, who died after a battle with cervical cancer.

It offers protection against two virulent strains of the HPV virus which causes the cancer.

Freda Birrell, Scots-based secretary for HPV vaccine group Sanevax, said: "I have calls from around four parents every week, all worried about their daughters' side-effects.

"We don't tell parents to boycott the vaccine but ask them to check the side-effects listed by the drug company."

A spokeswoman for makers, GlaxoSmithKline said: "Common side effects include pain, redness, swelling and fatigue.

"The MHRA published

concluded that no new risks have been identified for Cervarix and the balance of risks and benefits remains positive."

A Scottish Government spokesman said: "The HPV vaccination programme is based on expert independent medical advice and we are satisfied that the trials and subsequent vaccine use is appropriate.

"All evidence suggests it is safe and highly effective in protecting against the precursors of cervical cancer."

The MHRA say: "As more than 5 million doses have so far been given in the UK, the number of reports received is entirely within the expected range and no serious new safety issues have arisen"

■ EMILY RYALLES (13) loved playing sports and danced several times a week.

But after her Cervarix jab she spent three weeks in bed last year.

"I have suffered spells of exhaustion since and can sleep for 14 hours some nights," Emily said.

"Sometimes I'm so tired I could cry."

Her mum Caron said: "We can't believe the

change in her and the sheer lack of energy.

"Our big fear is that it may be permanent and the Emily has been damaged by the vaccine.

"We called GlaxoSmithKline and they told us that these were normal reactions but when I mentioned that they had gone on for over a year their adviser didn't reply.

"Emily is due a third and last jab but we are refusing it for fear that she gets even worse."