



A cross-sectional survey on myths related to administration of COVID-19 vaccine among hospital staff employed in supportive services category of hospital in Indore (M.P.)

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Abstract

The current Covid-19 pandemic is unusual to ultimately combat the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, it is desired to develop an effective and safe vaccine against this highly contagious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 corona virus. This study aims to find out the myths regarding the administration of COVID-19 vaccine among hospital staff employed in supportive services category of hospital. The research method was cross-sectional survey. The data was collected from hospital staff employed in supportive services in Bombay Hospital. The data was collected from respondent by using Likert Scale. The results showed that most of the respondent about 24% agrees about the myths and were 34% respondent failed to give their opinion. In this Internet-fueled era, rumors grow and spread like wildfire. The addition of a significant dose of fear and anxiety provides the Petri-dish in which to grow stubborn, dangerous myths. The best advice is to ensure that you always take information from reliable sources.

Keywords: COVID-19, vaccine, myths, cross-sectional survey, supportive service staff

Introduction

The emerging corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic poses a massive crisis to global public health. As of march 11, 2020 there were 118,326 confirmed cases and 4,292 deaths, according to the world health organization (WHO) and WHO declared the COVID-19 as a pandemic on the same day. The causative agent of the COVID-19 disease is the severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Vaccination is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases, before they come into contact with them, vaccines train your immune system to create antibodies, just as it does when it's exposed to a disease.

Certain myths that are around in terms of this vaccine, there is no evidence that this vaccine is going to alter your DNA, in that when you get immunized, you are not being exposed to the virus itself, you get exposed to the RNA. The RNA gets inside your body. It allows our bodies ultimately to develop a response just to the one part of the virus that we need to make a response to and it's a very safe vaccine. One of the things that you can expect, however is that you may have fever, you may not feel right because our immune systems are normally at rest. All vaccines are different in terms of how efficacious that they are, but 95% is very good.

The more of us that become vaccinated, the better off we are going to be. This will definitely decrease the burden of this virus in the environment, in the population and once we get down below a certain threshold that we can begin to think about removing our mask and going back to the life that we used to know.

Materials and Methods

This study was a cross-sectional survey study that was conducted to know the myths related to administration of COVID-19 vaccine among staff employed in supportive services category of hospital at Bombay Hospital, Indore. The sample was consisted of 100 supportive staffs from different categories like (Mess workers, Cafeteria workers, Security staffs, Rare Hospitality) and the Non-probability purposive sampling method was utilized to gather information from chosen population. Inclusion criteria in this study for supportive hospital staff was who willing to participate, and who are able to understand Hindi or English and the supportive staff who was not willing to participate included in exclusion criteria.

Data collection tool was a questionnaire designed by the researcher, the first part of the questionnaire was related to demographic information such as age, sex, educational level, marital status, types of family, occupation and any family members received COVID-19 vaccine. The second part contained 10 items 3 point Likert scale (agree-disagree) based on myths regarding the administration of COVID-19 vaccine. The questionnaire was used after confirming the validity and reliability.

Results

Based on the results, response rate was 100% of hospital supportive staff demographic data have been presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Demographic Information

S. No	Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age (in years)		
	a. 21-25 yrs	15	15%
	b. 26-30 yrs	30	30%
	c. 31-35 yrs	45	45%
	d. >36 yrs	10	10%
2.	Sex		
	a. Male	63	63%
	b. Female	37	37%
3.	Education		
	a. Primary education	33	33%
	b. Secondary education	57	57%
	c. Degree and above	10	10%
4.	Marital status		
	a. Single	21	21%
	b. Married	73	73%
	c. Divorced	02	02%
	d. Widower	04	04%
5.	Types of Family		
	a. Nuclear	61	61%
	b. Joint	39	39%
6.	Occupation		
	a. Mess staff	18	18%
	b. Cafeteria staff	24	24%
	c. Security staff	30	30%
	d. Rare hospitality	28	28%
7.	Any family members received COVID-19 Vaccine		
	a. Yes	03	03%
	b. No	97	97%

10 Items Likert- scales Questionnaire of Myths regarding administration of COVID-19 vaccine

Table 2: The Likert- Scale scoring and Interpretation Percentage wise of Respondent

S. No	Questions	Agrees	Netiher	Disagree	Total (n=100)
1.	Once I receive the vaccine, I will become COVID-19 Positive	2%	0%	98%	100%
2.	If I receive the COVID-19 Vaccine, I am at a greater risk to become sick from another illness.	2%	6%	92%	100%
3.	I will wait for 6 months only, after that I will take COVID-19 Vaccine	6%	2%	92%	100%
4.	COVID-19 Vaccine will cause severe disease like facial paralysis, epilepsy, lung damage etc.	2%	32%	66%	100%
5.	COVID-19 Vaccine is unsafe because many of my colleagues informed me.	18%	34%	48%	100%
6.	I have already been diagnosed with COVID-19 so, I don't need to receive the Vaccine.	24%	28%	48%	100%
7.	COVID-19 Vaccine has severe side effects such as allergic reactions as it is reported in many foreign countries.	14%	20%	66%	100%
8.	Family members are pressurizing not to get COVID-19 Vaccine.	20%	6%	74%	100%
9.	COVID-19 Vaccine might be very painful and due to this may not be able to carry out daily activities.	0%	12%	88%	100%
10.	Till now I have not suffered from COVID, so in future I may not get COVID.	6%	22%	72%	100%

Shows the respondents claiming to have myths regarding the administration of COVID-19 vaccine and at the same most of them disagree with the statement which given to respond in Likert scale (n=100). According to overall scoring most of the respondent have myth that “I have already been diagnosed with COVID-19 so, I don't need to receive the vaccine” i.e. 24%, whereas respondent not given their response regarding the myths “COVID-19 vaccine is unsafe because many of my colleague informed me” i.e. 34%

Discussion

The aim of the cross-sectional survey study to find out the myths regarding the administration of COVID-19 vaccine among the hospital staff employed in supportive services category of hospital. After the survey it had been observed

that the respondent have myths regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and that need to be removed by creating awareness, positive publicity and lots of encouragement.

Conclusion

The cross-sectional survey study concludes that the hospital staff employed in supportive services category of hospital have myths regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. It is hard to believe that not much more than 1 year ago, COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 were entirely unknown, now we have a number of viable, effective and safe vaccines. In this internet- fueled era, rumors grow and spread like wildfire. The addition of a significant dose of fear and anxiety provides the perfect Petri-dish in which to grow stubborn, dangerous myths. The situation and the science are moving quickly and the best

advice is to ensure that you always take information from reliable sources and do not pay attention to powerful but misleading social media, whatsapp and facebook university posts.

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