

Perceptions and Willingness of Healthcare workers for COVID-19 vaccine for their children aged <18 years from a Tertiary care Institute of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, India

Abu Bashar¹, Imran Ahmed Khan², and Rupam Kumar²

¹All India Institute of Medical Sciences - Gorakhpur

²BRD Medical College Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

March 13, 2023

Abstract

Background COVID-19 vaccination program for adults in India is one of the highly successful vaccination drives globally but acceptance of COVID-19 for children and adolescents is largely unknown. As parents are primary decision-makers for their children, we aimed to assess parents' perceptions and intentions regarding COVID-19 vaccination for children in India. **Aim** To assess parental perceptions and intention to get COVID-19 vaccination for their children (aged<18 years), **Materials and Methods** A cross-sectional anonymous web-based survey was designed. Healthcare workers of a tertiary care institute of Eastern U.P., India having any children aged <18 years were the study population. They were recruited through snowball sampling and were sent the study questionnaire in Google form through email and WhatsApp. Bi-variate analysis was performed to find out the predictors of child vaccination willingness among the parents. **Results** A total of 388 healthcare workers parents (HCWPs) having a child < 18 years of age completed the survey. Mean age of the parents were 40.28 \pm 11.34 years. Majority (96.9%) received recommended 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Around 91% of the parents agreed that COVID-19 vaccines are important for child's health whereas 89% agreed that COVID-19 vaccines are effective. A total 356 (91.7%) participants shown willing to vaccinate their child with COVID-19 vaccine, 91.3% of them intended to do so as soon as possible Factors found to be significantly associated with the stated willingness for child COVID-19 vaccination among the participants were younger age, female gender, urban residence, absence of any chronic illness, lower monthly income, history of COVID-19 in child and the child immunized with all routine childhood vaccines. Parental concerns mainly centered around vaccine need and its safety. **Conclusion** The healthcare worker parents (HCWPs) have positive attitude and low vaccine hesitancy towards COVID-19 vaccination for children with around 92% of them currently willing to vaccinate their children with COVID-19 vaccine. Further longitudinal studies are required to be conducted to assess the trend of parental acceptance of COVID vaccine.

Hosted file

PARENT_PERCEPTION_STUDY_WITH_DISCUSSION_(Autosaved)_(2) (1).docx available at <https://authorea.com/users/595237/articles/629394-perceptions-and-willingness-of-healthcare-workers-for-covid-19-vaccine-for-their-children-aged-18-years-from-a-tertiary-care-institute-of-eastern-uttar-pradesh-india>