

THE HESITANCY OF UAE PARENTS TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN GET A COVID-19 VACCINE

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INTRODUCTION

Hesitancy among parents to have their children take the COVID-19 vaccine is a common phenomena that needs to be assessed and analyzed.

The FDA gave the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine emergency authorization to use in children ages 5-15 years old [1].

COVID-19 VACCINE will work on preventing your minors from severe manifestations.

Children vaccination can help in achieving herd immunity.

Aim

To assess the hesitancy of UAE parents to have their children get a COVID-19 vaccine and reasons behind it.

METHODOLOGY

Our study design is cross-sectional.

The target population is parents who have children of age 5 to 16 years old, our sample size included 393 participants.

Self-administered questionnaire that had a total of 22 questions was used.

This questionnaire was designed so that the subjects can easily answer all questions

SPSS statistics v24 was used for analysis and Chi-squared test.

Discussion

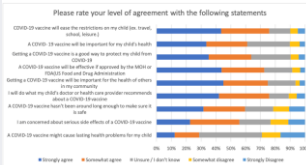
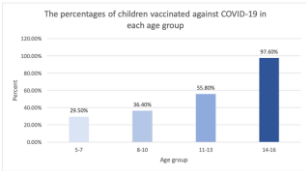
Many parents were concerned about vaccine side effects and the novelty of the vaccine.

A study in Saudi Arabia also reported high percentages of hesitancy among mothers (24.31%). [2]

Reference:

- [1] FDA authorizes pfizer-biontech COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use in children 5 through 11 years of age. (2021, October 29). U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-authorizes-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use-children-5-through-11-years-age>
- [2] Alkhalil, H., Alshahid, N., Alhadi, N., Aljassir, R., & Alshahid, H. (2021). Vaccine hesitancy towards childhood immunization as a predictor of mother's intention to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 in Saudi Arabia. *Journal of Infection and Public Health*, 14(10), 1497-1504. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jiph.2021.08.028>

RESULTS



For children below the age of 11, children who had childhood vaccinations are more than eight times more likely to vaccinate for COVID-19. (Odds ratio=8.422, p-value=0.001)

For children above the ages of 11, children who had childhood vaccinations are more than twelve times more likely to vaccinate for COVID-19. (p-value < 0.000, odds ratios=12.113)

CONCLUSION

Parents are highly aware that the vaccine will be beneficial, but still some think that it may cause lasting health problems.

Parents are less hesitant to vaccinate to vaccinate their children as their age increase.

Further campaigns for awareness about new vaccines and their safety are **recommended**.