

Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Influenza Vaccine Immunization among Primary Healthcare Providers in Dubai Health Authority, 2016-2017



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BACKGROUND

Vaccination of healthcare providers (HCPs) against seasonal influenza has been consistently recommended worldwide. Despite that, healthcare providers (HCPs) globally and other Middle East countries continue to have a low rate of influenza vaccination due to various reasons, mostly attributed to. No data are available from our country, United Arab Emirates.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To identify the percentage of vaccinated HCPs.
- ❖ To identify the most common reason for receiving the vaccine or not.
- ❖ To identify the level of HCPs knowledge towards the influenza vaccine itself.

METHODS

- ❖ Cross-sectional study design (2016 -2017).
- ❖ Anonymous 18-item self-administered questionnaires were distributed among healthcare providers in the 11 primary healthcare centers of Dubai Health Authority over a period of 5 months.
- ❖ Our sample size was calculated using standard online tools through the following formula ($n = (Z^2 \times P(1 - P))/e^2$) to be 500; including family medicine physicians, residents, nurses, and dentists in all primary healthcare centers under DHA.
- ❖ An SPSS program version 23 was used to compute the results.
- ❖ The inclusion criteria for the study was:
 - All primary healthcare providers in the listed primary healthcare centers under DHA.
- ❖ The exclusion criteria for participation included:
 - Primary healthcare providers with contraindications to influenza vaccinations, such as severe allergic reactions to the contents of influenza vaccination
 - Primary healthcare providers in rural PHC (Hatta and Al-Lusaili health centers).

RESULTS

Table-1: Demographics and Characteristics of the healthcare providers responders

Characteristics	Total number (n= 431)	Percentage %
Gender		
female	367	85.2%
Male	64	14.8%
Specialty		
Medical	197	45.7%
nursing	156	36.2%
Dental	78	18.1%
Co-morbidities		
DM	43	10%
asthma	33	7.7%
Pneumonia	1	0.2%
Obesity	50	11.6%
CVD	11	2.6%

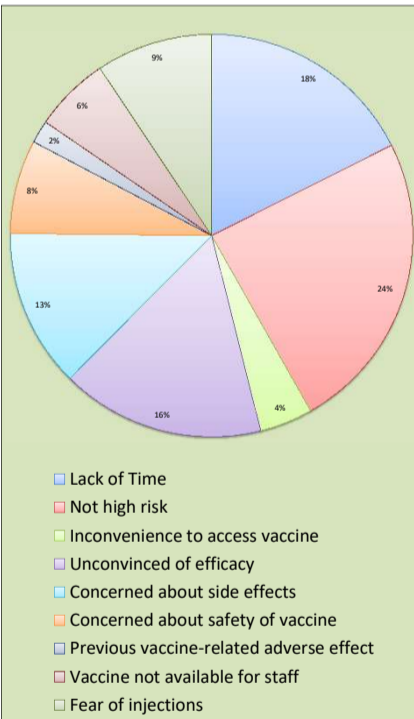


Fig.2 Reasons for not receiving the influenza vaccine n(201)

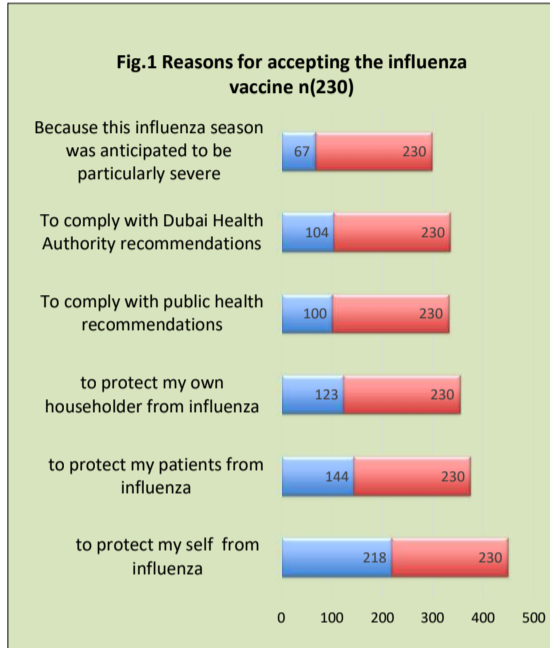


Fig.1 Reasons for accepting the influenza vaccine n(230)

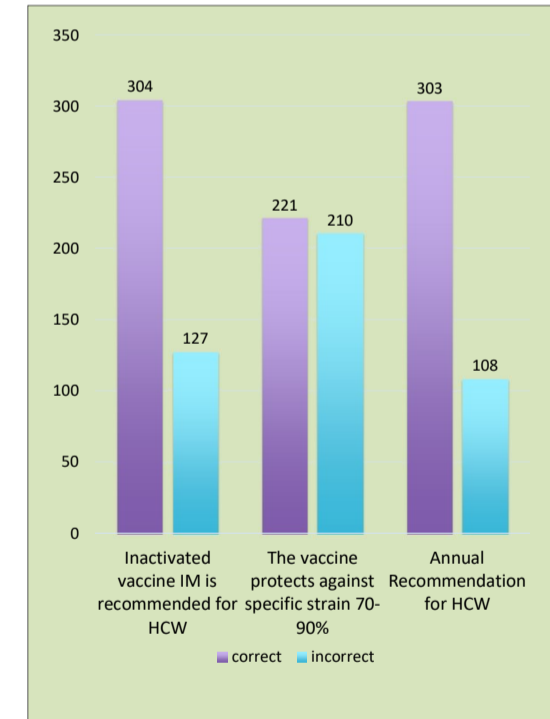


Fig.3 HCPs knowledge regarding the influenza vaccine

RESULTS

- ❖ Out of the 431 respondents to our questionnaires, 53.4% reported getting vaccinated.
- ❖ The most common reason reported by HCPs for accepting the vaccine was to protect themselves (94.8%).
- ❖ Of the 46.6% who did not accept the vaccine, the most common reason for not being vaccinated was their belief of not being at high risk to contract influenza (39.8%).
- ❖ 65.3% of those with good knowledge accepted the vaccine, which was the highest percentage of uptake in comparison with knowledge level. As those with poorer levels of knowledge were less likely to accept the vaccine. This was a statistically significant result (0.017). More detailed information is provided in figure 3 below.

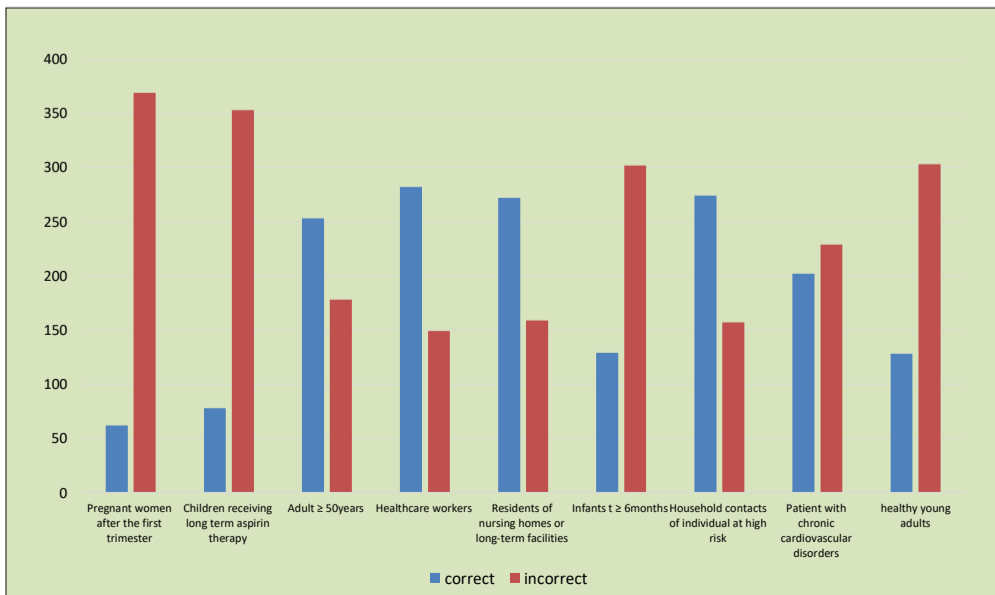


Fig.4 Recommendations for immunizations categories

CONCLUSIONS

- According to the result of our study, the vaccination rates against influenza seems similar among healthcare providers in DHA (Dubai Health Authority) compared to rates previously reported by other studies internationally and regionally. Although our HCPs attitude towards vaccine uptake, knowledge and practice were positive; the misconception about the vaccine remains the main reason for not being vaccinated as per our study findings. We believe that this study may serve as a basis for future interventions to increase influenza immunization among healthcare providers in our Country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ To include influenza vaccinations as part of the annual continuous medical educational programs
- ❖ To Facilitate the availability of the vaccines readily to all health care providers at their work sites to encourage the staff and increase its uptake.
- ❖ Conducting health promotion campaign to raise awareness about the latest guidelines and recommendations of influenza vaccine and to clarify the present misconceptions within the community.
- ❖ Monitor progress of influenza vaccine uptake through future researches and further studies.

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Ethical Consideration: This research was approved by the Dubai Scientific Ethical Research Committee at Dubai Health Authority.