Characteristics And Beliefs Associated With COVID-19 Vaccination Acceptance In Parents Of Pediatric Emergency Department Patients

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Introduction

• Despite widespread SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) vaccine availability, vaccine acceptance has remained low in certain populations.1-3
• Some have postulated that racial and ethnic factors play a major role in vaccine hesitancy, whereas others believe that additional, yet unknown, factors are associated with COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.

Objective

• We hypothesized that parental trust in scientists, trust in the media, and belief that children can infect others would also be associated with COVID-19 vaccine acceptance for themselves.

Methods

Study Design

• Secondary analysis of a cross sectional study
• IRB approved and participants provided verbal informed consent

Setting

• Cooper University Hospital, Camden, NJ
• St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, PA
• Urban, academic, university hospital pediatric EDs
• Data collected 6/21-8/21

Patient Population

• Parents (≥18 years) of children aged 3-16 yrs presenting to one of the two pediatric EDs
• Only one parent per child was enrolled; no repeat enrollments
• Data collected permitted only to the presenting child

Survey Items

• English and Spanish surveys were utilized
• Data collected included:
  ▪ Parental demographics
  ▪ Vaccination history
  ▪ Socio-economic data
  ▪ Parental beliefs
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Survey Items

• Parents were also asked to rate their agreement (scale of 0-10) with the following items:
  ▪ I believe that children infected with COVID-19 can infect others
  ▪ I trust the information from scientists about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines
  ▪ I trust the information from the media about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines

Results

• 438 parents were enrolled
• 84% Female, 41% Hispanic, 38% African American/Black
• Median parental age: 34 (IQR 29-39) years
• 14% did not complete high school
• 41% reported an annual income < $25,000
• 60% reported influenza vaccination in the past 2 years

Results (continued)

• Other factors, which we did not include, may also be associated with COVID-19 vaccination acceptance.

Methods (continued)

Survey Items

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Analysis

• Summary statistics
• Univariate analysis (odds ratios, OR) and multivariable regression (adjusted odds ratios, aOR) with corresponding 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) to determine which factors were associated with parental COVID-19 vaccination

Results

• Trust information from scientists about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines (agreement ≥ 7)
  6.21 (4.07 – 9.47) 4.54 (2.64 – 7.51)*
• Income (< $25,000, reference)
  4.99 (2.83 – 8.82) 3.41 (1.68 – 6.94)*
• Trust information from the media about the safety of the vaccine (agreement ≥ 7)
  3.58 (2.20 – 5.83) 1.65 (0.90 – 3.04)
• Education (college degree vs none)
  3.09 (1.84 – 5.18) 1.72 (0.90 – 3.04)
• Belief that children infected with COVID-19 can infect others (agreement ≥ 7)
  2.82 (1.56 – 5.12) 1.28 (0.65 – 2.52)
• Increasing parental age (18-34 yrs, reference)
  1.76 (1.33 – 2.34) 1.48 (0.96 – 2.07)*
• Influenza vaccine in the past 2 years
  1.18 (1.01 – 1.38) 1.15 (0.97 – 1.36)
• African American/Black race
  0.49 (0.33 – 0.74) 0.65 (0.40 – 1.05)

Limitations

• 2 site study, so results may not be generalizable
• Other factors, which we did not include, may also be associated with COVID-19 vaccination

Conclusions

• A minority of parents were vaccinated against COVID-19
• Our multivariable logistic regression findings differed from prior studies in that sex, race, and ethnicity were no longer associated with vaccination due to the inclusion of our “trust” variables.
• For parents, COVID-19 vaccine acceptance was most highly associated with trust in scientists about vaccine safety.

References: