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A Cross-Sectional Study to Assess the Perceptions Regarding Adult Immunization Among the Beneficiaries of Adult Vaccination OPD

Medicine

KEYWORDS : Adult Immunization, perceptions, beneficiaries, Cross-sectional study.

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ABSTRACT

Understanding the perceptions of beneficiaries regarding immunization will help us to give practical insights & improvise the management aspects of adult immunization. Aim was to assess the epidemiological determinants and perceptions of beneficiaries attending adult vaccination OPD in a tertiary care institute. A cross-sectional study of 2 months was done on 140 beneficiaries attending Adult Immunization OPD. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire and analysed using appropriate statistical tests. Maximum beneficiaries availed Yellow Fever vaccination for self protection. 90% were International travellers while around 50% were travelling for Recreational purpose. Mostly the beneficiaries did not reach a consensus on whether they can take vaccines even if they are having Fever and whether they are safe even if they don't take all scheduled doses of recommended vaccines.

Introduction:

Globally vaccination programs have made a major contribution to the elimination of many vaccine preventable diseases and significantly reduced the incidence of others.[1] Vaccine preventable diseases cause unnecessary morbidity and mortality among adults, while inadequate immunization results in unnecessary societal and economic costs, including missed time from school and work, physician office visits, hospitalization, treatment and loss of income.

Adult immunization is a neglected and underpublicized issue in India. WHO and CDC[2] publish annually updated guidelines and recommendations for vaccination of adults 19 years and older and most of developed and industrialized countries have well implemented[3] it as a national policy[4], India does not have a national program for adult immunization.

Childhood immunization is a universal schedule but adult immunization is more complex and encompasses a wide variety of vaccines for beneficiaries ranging from healthy to sick adults who can be served by a wide variety of health care providers. Vaccine recommendations for adults vary for adolescents (HPV) to elderly; universally recommended vaccines (Influenza) to those recommended for certain specific reasons (travel vaccines).

Hence this study was undertaken to assess the epidemiological determinants and the perceptions of beneficiaries regarding adult Immunization attending adult vaccination OPD.

Aim & Objectives:

1. To assess the epidemiological determinants of beneficiaries attending adult vaccination OPD.
2. To assess the perceptions of the beneficiaries regarding adult Immunization.

Methodology:

It was a cross-sectional study involving the beneficiaries of Adult immunization in an Adult Immunization OPD in a Tertiary care hospital. The study period was of 2 months. Universal sampling method was used and data of 140 beneficiaries was collected using a structured questionnaire after taking a written consent. Data was entered in Microsoft Excel 2007 software and was analysed using SPSS software.

Results:

Table No. 1: Socio-demographic information:

	Categories	Beneficiaries
1. Age	Less than or equal to 20 years	2
	21 to 40 years	53
	41 to 60 years	68
	More than 60 years	17
2. Sex	Male	103
	Female	37
3. Education	Primary	7
	Secondary	16
	Higher Secondary	25
	Graduate and above	92
4. Occupation	Unskilled	24
	Skilled	8
	Business	68
	Profession	40
5. Marital status	Single	35
	Married	102
	Widow	3
6. Religion	Hindu	97
	Muslim	19
	Christian	7
	Others	17

Maximum beneficiaries i.e. 68 belonged to 41 to 60 years age group and mostly were males. Maximum beneficiaries were graduate and above and belonged to Hindu religion. Around 50% were occupied in Business profession and maximum were married.

Table No. 2: Information regarding Vaccination:

	Categories	Beneficiaries
1. Vaccine received*	Yellow Fever	103
	Oral Polio Vaccine	58
	HBV	14
	TDaP	7
	MMR	8
	Meningococcal Meningitis	6
	Typhoid	5
	HAV	8
2. Reason for Vaccination	Self Protection	131
	Travel for Education	9

3. International travellers	Yes	128
	No	12
4. Reason for travelling	Education	9
	Business	37
	Job	27
	Recreation	67

* Multiple Response

Maximum beneficiaries availed Yellow Fever vaccination and the reason they sought was self protection. Around 90% were International travellers while around 50% were travelling for Recreational purpose.

Table no. 3: Perceptions regarding Adult Immunization:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. To get vaccinated is better than to get disease.	50	46	7	33	4
2. Vaccines are recommended only for children, adults don't need it.	0	0	6	20	114
3. Only those at high risk should take the vaccines.	63	28	9	23	17
4. There are no side effects of taking vaccine.	57	34	3	38	8
5. I need to take vaccine before travel.	133	2	5	0	0
6. There are no contraindications for taking vaccines.	2	10	22	34	72
7. I should take vaccine even if I have contraindication, as I need to travel.	85	29	4	12	10
8. I can take vaccine even if I have Fever.	40	33	3	38	29
9. I am absolutely safe after taking vaccine i.e. I will not get disease at all for which I am vaccinated.	53	30	5	32	20
10. I am safe even if I don't take all scheduled doses of recommended vaccines.	47	34	2	42	15

Mostly the beneficiaries did not reach a consensus on whether they can take vaccines even if they are having Fever and whether they are safe even if they don't take all scheduled doses of recommended vaccines.

Summary and Conclusions:

Adult immunization is more complex and encompasses a wide variety of vaccines but still a very neglected and underpublicized issue. The participants in this cross-sectional study were beneficiaries attending an Adult Immunization OPD for 2 months. Sample size was 140 beneficiaries. Data was entered in Microsoft Excel 2007 software and was analysed using SPSS software.

Maximum beneficiaries belonged to 41 to 60 years age group and mostly were males. Maximum beneficiaries were graduate and above. Around 50% were occupied in Business profession. Maximum beneficiaries availed Yellow Fever vaccination and the reason they sought was self protection. Around 90% were International travellers while around 50% were travelling for Recreational purpose. Mostly the beneficiaries did not reach a consensus on whether they can take vaccines even if they are having Fever and whether they are safe even if they don't take all scheduled doses of recommended vaccines.

Recommendations:

1. Establishment of additional centres for Adult Immunization.
2. There is a need to increase mass awareness regarding the necessity and situations in which these vaccines are required.
3. It is important to display of information regarding the various sites where these vaccines are given.
4. Research in the field of Adult immunization should be undertaken.
5. Capacity building by continued training of the health personnel involved in Adult immunization.

References:

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