



KNOWLEDGE, PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE OF MEDICAL STUDENTS TOWARDS COVID 19 VACCINATION IN RAIPUR (C.G).

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ABSTRACT Covid-19 vaccination drive started in India on 16th January 2021 for health worker and frontline workers. A cross-sectional online-based questionnaire survey was undertaken to know about the facts and myths among medical students & their approach towards covid 19 vaccination. Following ISC & IEC clearance a web based cross-sectional study using MCQ was conducted in month of February 2021 among the medical graduates in the vicinity of Pt. Jawaharlal Medical College, Raipur. Demographic characteristics, knowledge, attitude, perception and acceptance data regarding Covid-19 vaccination was collected by a self-administered survey. Valid and complete responses were collected from 300 participants out of these, 165(55%) were male and 135(45%) were female in the age group of 18-25 years. Awareness regarding severity of Covid-19 infection was 85%, Covid-19 vaccine was 76%, Perception about favorable post vaccination outcome was 81%, 82% participants were willing for vaccination and 70% were inquisitive regarding the side effects. **Summary-** Following the assessment of the knowledge, perception & attitude of the participants, the data suggests that students are aware regarding the Covid pandemic, its severity and are willing to undertake Covid-19 vaccination. The most encountered barrier to unawareness is paucity of detailed information related to the vaccine and its adverse effects.

KEYWORDS : Covid-19, Vaccination, Knowledge, Perception, Attitude.

A Covid-19 vaccination drive started in India on 16th January 2021 for health worker and frontline workers. A cross-sectional online-based questionnaire survey was undertaken to know about the facts and myths among medical undergraduate students & their approach towards covid 19 vaccination. Undergraduate students are frequently approached population to know their perspective related to current health scenarios. As they provide a deep understanding pertaining to various aspects of health, they were recruited for the present study.

OBJECTIVES:

To assess the knowledge, perception and attitude of medical students towards covid 19 vaccination.

METHOD:

The survey was designed following ISC & IEC clearance. Web based MCQs were used and piloted to focus group participants after proper validations. This cross-sectional study was conducted among medical undergraduates studying in Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical College Raipur in February 2021 after the 1st wave of Covid 19 pandemic. The self-administered survey comprising demographic characteristics and questions pertaining to knowledge, perception and attitude was completed by using popular social media platforms

Table:1 Summary of Demographic information of survey respondents

Gender N(%)	
Male	165 (55%)
Female	135 (45%)
Age M (SD)	20 (□2.79)

Table:3 Groups of Students Participated

Batch	No. of students
1 st MBBS	75 (25%)
2 nd MBBS	75 (25%)
3 rd MBBS	75 (25%)
4 th MBBS	75 (25%)

The survey was taken by total 300 respondents ,25% each from 1st MBBS, 2nd MBBS, 3rd MBBS and 4th MBBS undergraduate students. All the participants had knowledge about the Covid 19 disease, 85% had awareness regarding the severity, 80% were familiar with COVID vaccination with 82% willing to get vaccinated and 70% inquisitive regarding the side effects of vaccination.15% were not aware about the severity of disease.

Table:2 Results of Questionaries

N = 300	Total%	Proportion of Male & Female	
		Male	Female
Awareness of Covid 19 Infection	100%	55%	45%
Awareness about Covid 19 severity	85%	54.9%	45.1%
Awareness about Covid 19 vaccine	80%	54.2%	45.8%
Perception about favorable post vaccination outcome	81%	52.6%	47.3%
Willingness for Covid 19 vaccination	82%	58.1%	41.9%
Inquisitive about Covid 19 vaccine side effects	70%	55.7%	44.3%

The study has a confidence interval of 95% with margin of error 4.43%.

DISCUSSION:

Our study demonstrated the Knowledge, attitude and perception pertaining to Covid-19 vaccination during on-going pandemic. It provides an insight towards overall optimistic attitude of students regarding Covid-19 Vaccination. Efforts to address the queries regarding vaccination in order to augment the acceptance by the general population is further needed.

CONCLUSION:

Following the assessment of the knowledge, perception & attitude of the participants, the data suggests that students are aware regarding the Covid pandemic, its severity and are willing to undertake Covid-19 vaccination. The most encountered barrier to unawareness is paucity of detailed information related to the vaccine and its adverse effects.

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