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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

CHR D 2022: Abstract & Poster Submission Form

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Presenter Status

- Undergraduate Students
- Masters Student
- PhD Student
- Post-Doctoral Fellows
- Residents
- Non-Trainee

Research Category

- Basic Science
- Clinical
- Community Health / Policy

Role in the project

- Design
- Perform Experiments
- Analyze Data
- Write Abstract

Title

A qualitative investigation into vaccine hesitancy and confidence amongst people managing allergy

Background

COVID-19 vaccines are critical to the pandemic response. As such, vaccine hesitancy poses a threat to global health. Despite the rarity of allergic reaction to COVID-19 vaccines, people with allergies may still hold reservations.

Objective

We aimed to describe the perceptions of COVID-19 vaccines amongst individuals managing allergy.

Methods

Semi-structured qualitative interviews regarding COVID-19 vaccines were conducted with two categories of participants (all eligible for vaccination): (1) parents of children with allergies, (2) adults with allergies. Participants were recruited via social media. Transcripts were analysed independently by two researchers utilizing thematic analysis.

Results

At this time, eight interviews have been conducted (n = 5 parents of children with allergies; n = 3 adults with allergies). All participants (and eligible children of participants) have been vaccinated, with a range of allergies, including food and drug allergies. Thus far, four major themes have been identified: (1) Benefits of vaccination outweigh risks, (2) allergy community increases vaccine confidence, (3) lack of accessible information delayed vaccination (4) allergists' advice enhanced confidence in obtaining the vaccine. Many participants cited medical professionals, government, and researchers as reputable sources to obtain information surrounding vaccines, despite significant misinformation in the media. Allergy community groups, such as Facebook groups for parents with food allergies, served as social supports and influenced the decision making of others in similar positions.

Conclusion

Despite evidence of the safety of COVID-19 vaccines for those with allergies, vaccine confidence was initially shaken due to gaps in resources, professional medical advice, and representation in the literature. Ultimately, the decision to be vaccinated often was influenced by diverse stakeholders, including medical professionals, scientists, and governmental organizations, as well as community groups. Knowledge translation efforts should address the identified gaps to reduce the spread of misinformation.

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