

Vaccine Hesitancy in Geriatric population: a limiting factor to herd immunity from vaccination in Nigeria

Olaoye Damilola Q^{1,2}, Adekoya Omobolanle F.¹, Ben-Ajepe Temitope ³, Adepitan Damilola S.¹, Adebisi Yusuf A.^{2,4}

¹. The Department of Pharmacy, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria.

². Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

³. Dora Akunyili College of Pharmacy, Igbinedion University, Okada, Edo State, Nigeria. .

olaoye335@gmail.com, +2348101680789,

Background

Vaccination is currently considered as one of the most successful public health measure to curbing highly infectious disease. Sadly, the growing spread of myths and misinformation has been reducing the public's confidence in vaccination process. Vaccine hesitancy stands as a barrier to full population immunity against highly infectious diseases. Coincidentally, the rapid developments of COVID-19 vaccines globally have risen more concerns about the safety of the vaccines hence projected to increase public hesitancy to taking the vaccine.

Aim

The aim of this study was to conduct a comprehensive and systematic regional assessment of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in a community-based sample

Methods

A multi-item valid and reliable questionnaire was created through comprehensive literature review (to ensure face validity) and expert suggestions (to ensure content validity). The questionnaire was deployed online via social media sites to recruit south western Nigerian adults above the age of 50 from the general population. Assisted filling was done for adults who could not fill in the forms. Collected data were entered into the IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences for analysis. Appropriate references were drawn from analysis

Results

A total of 478 individuals participated in the study where the majority were: females (60.9%), The likelihood of getting a COVID-19 immunization in the study population was: very likely (40%), somewhat likely (28%), not likely (12%), definitely not (20%), with individuals who had lower education and income, or perceived threat of getting infected being less likely to get COVID-19 vaccine. In multiple regression analyses, vaccine hesitancy was predicted significantly by sex, education, income, and the perceived threat of getting infected from the vaccine

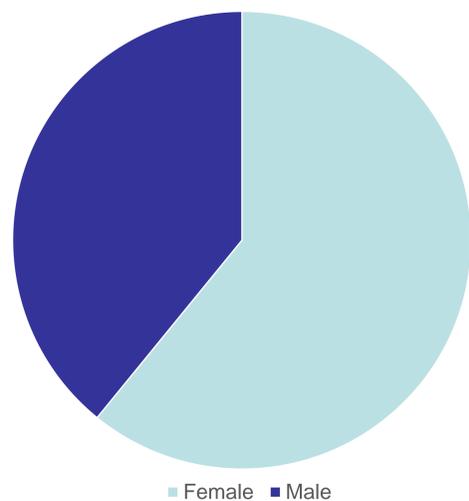


Figure 1: Chart showing Respondents, Gender Distribution

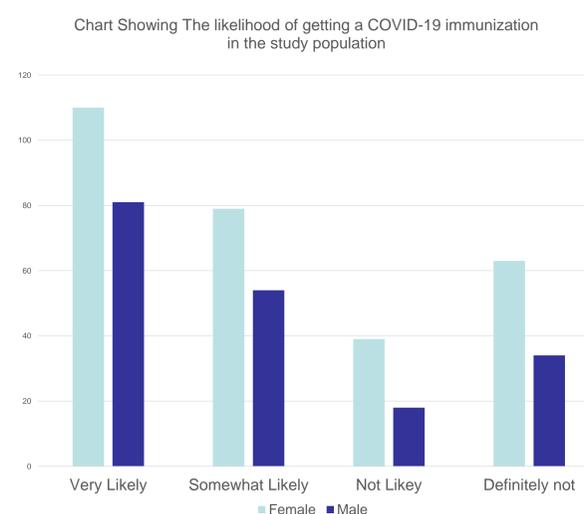


Figure 2: Chart Showing The likelihood of getting a COVID-19 immunization in the study population

More Results

Reasons for not taking the vaccine ranged from religious beliefs, to lack of belief in the existence of the virus to concerns on vaccine safety.

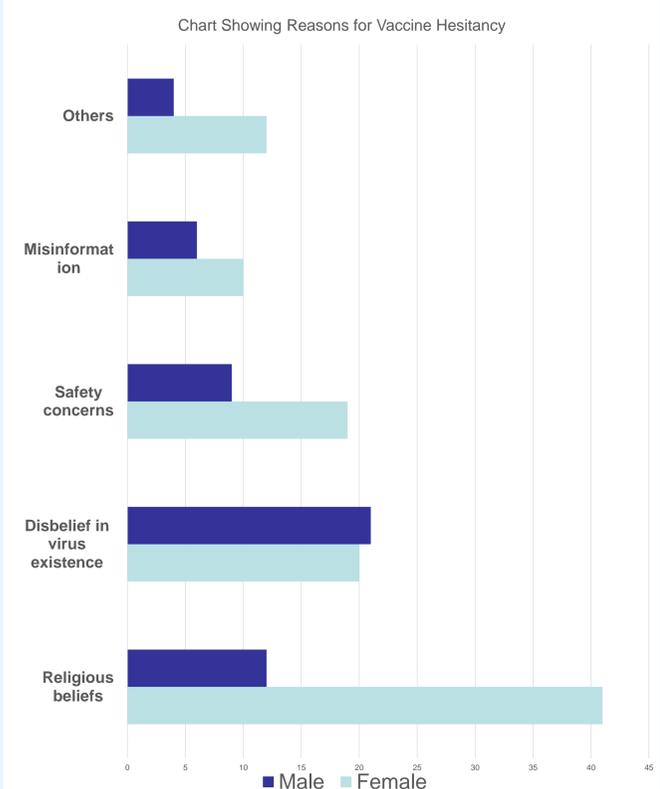


Figure 3: Chart Showing Reasons for Vaccine Hesitancy

Conclusions

Majority of the geriatric population are willing to take the Covid 19 vaccines while there's still need to increase awareness to dispel myths surrounding the vaccination process. Targeted grassroots awareness can prove instrumental in convincing undecided and unwilling participants to take the Covid 19 vaccine.