

Acceptance of COVID-19 Vaccine amongst Dental Health Professionals

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Abstract: An online survey was conducted amongst dental health professionals in a college and its associated hospital in Bengaluru, India regarding their awareness and acceptance of COVID 19 Vaccine. This Survey included all levels of dental professionals, that is, 2nd 3rd 4th year undergraduate, 1st, 2nd, 3rd year postgraduate students, Interns, general and specialized dentists. A total of 109 individuals took part in this e-survey over a 5 day period. Half of the people were definitely going to take the vaccine. More than quarter said they might or might not take the vaccine while the remaining percentage of people said they definitely won't take the vaccine.

Keywords: COVID-19 Vaccine, Dentistry, Dental Students, Survey, Acceptance of Vaccine

1. Introduction

Since it was first reported in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, Central China in December 2019, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has become a major topic of discussion amongst health care professionals. COVID-19 is caused by a novel coronavirus called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) which causes pneumonia, with symptoms ranging from mild to deadly. SARS-CoV-2 infection can cause an acute inflammatory response (cytokine storm) and respiratory failure (2, 3). The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

Dental schools and their affiliated hospitals, as well as research laboratories have also been significantly affected by the pandemic. As a consequence, most research work has been stopped or undergone radical changes with severe limitations. These difficulties have been compounded by the absence of technical support as some experienced laboratory personnel belong to high-risk groups. However, this challenging situation has offered an opportunity to re-evaluate the our knowledge and understanding of the infection control measures related to dentistry and formulate new strategies in the post-COVID era.

The risk of viral transmission is higher for those who are close to or work near patients, such as relatives and health workers.

This survey is one such topic of interest that gives an insight as to what the dental students and practitioners are going through, to evaluate the preparedness of dentists and are trying to assess their knowledge of COVID-19 and their acceptance towards the vaccine .

2. Method

Any survey has its own pros and cons, just the same was experienced with the e-survey where in the response time took a lot of time when compared to the physical form of a survey. This e-survey was conducted in a questionnaire format. Every question had a meticulously prepared options so as to not to confuse the participants. All questions were a must to answer but some questions like medical history, had an option of "prefer not to say" as, not everybody wants to

talk about some of their personal details. The google form link was sent to various participants in the above mentioned categories via group chats. A five day time period was given for everyone to respond to the link and answer the questionnaire.

3. Results

The survey conducted amongst dental undergraduate and postgraduate students revealed their awareness, and their participation in the pandemic.

70% were BDS undergraduate students 14% were interns, 12% were postgraduate students in the survey and 3 % were specialized dentist.

7 percent had tested positive for the virus prior to this survey, and recovered while the rest didn't take a test prior to this survey.

51% definitely wanted to take the vaccine 34% were not sure. 13% were definitely not interested in taking the vaccine.

77% had no other medical conditions while 13.8% had and 9.2% preferred not say anything about their medical history.

96.3% of the participants were aware of the ways of the virus spreads that is sneezing, handshake, hugging and kissing.

When asked about the masks, 83.5% felt that masks prevent spreading of the virus to and from the wearer. 9.2% felt there will be protection against the carrier. 3.7% felt masks protect only the wearer.

Most of them knew that it is ssRNA virus , this was around 88% , while 12% thought it was dsDNA.

When asked about neighbourhood protocol following 64.2% were following some, 17.4% were following none 11% were following all and 8% had no idea .

36% wanted an Indian vaccine only. 12% were leaning towards a foreign vaccine and 42% were okay with any vaccine.

Among the ones who took the survey 88% of dental professionals had educated or spread awareness of the virus to their relatives and friends while 12% had not .

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