

Parents' Knowledge, Attitude and Practice towards Childhood Vaccination, AlMadinah, Saudi Arabia 2017

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Abstract

Background: During the past few years, physicians in the kingdom were facing a growing number of parents who are questioning the safety and necessity of routine childhood vaccination because of some myths and misconceptions about vaccination.

Objective: Our study aimed to assess knowledge, attitude and practice regarding childhood vaccination and their associated factors among Saudi parents in AlMadinah region.

Methods: An Observational, Cross sectional study was conducted during the period (January-march 2017) in AlMadinah, Saudi Arabia. Parents of children aged from 1 month to 7 years who lives in AlMadinah were invited to participate in filling electronic questionnaire. The questions were formulated based on questions and answers published by the Ministry of Health Saudi Arabia website. Data was collected by trained medical students of Taibah University from the parents. A representative sample of 614 of participants living in various area of AlMadinah was selected randomly.

Results: 614 participants included in the study, Majority of them were mothers (86%). Most of them (58.1%) had their information regarding child vaccination from medical staff, followed by social media (17.4%) and books (14%). The results revealed that almost half of parents (N=310) had adequate knowledge regarding child vaccination. Attitude towards child vaccination was positive in more than half (N=346) of the parents. Most of the parents in the study (85.7%) believed that Compliance with the MOH vaccination schedule is very important but only 43% of them disagreed that vaccine doesn't give child immunity against infectious diseases. Majority of parents had good practice toward vaccination (N=570, 92.8%) reported vaccination of their children according to the MOH vaccination schedule.

Conclusion: The study showed that parents had an acceptable knowledge and attitudes on some aspects related to childhood vaccination. However, gaps in both knowledge and attitudes were identified. Most of parents had good practice toward vaccination. Educational interventions are required to improve parents' knowledge on the vaccination.

Keywords: Parents; Knowledge; Attitude; Childhood vaccination; AlMadinah

In Saudi Arabia, the main vaccinations by the Ministry of Health in the Vaccination sjac ail` he t atinistisŪn e`

Introduction

Immunization is the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. Vaccines stimulate the body's own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease.

Immunization is a proven tool for controlling and eliminating life-threatening infectious diseases and is estimated by WHO to avert between 2 and 3 million deaths each year [1]. World Health Organization (WHO, 2016) reported that 115 million infants worldwide received Diphtheria-Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine, there is about 85% of the world's children received one dose of measles vaccine, and received polio vaccine [2].

parents' knowledge and attitude play an important role in achieving complete Immunization of their children. Our study aims to assess knowledge, attitude and practice regarding children immunization and their associated factors among Saudi parents in AlMadinah.

Methods

An observational, Cross sectional study was conducted during the period of three month (January-march 2017) in AlMadinah, Saudi Arabia. Parents of children aged from 1 month to 7 years who lives in AlMadinah were invited to participate in electronic questionnaire. questions were formulated based on questions and answers published by the Ministry of Health Saudi Arabia.

Data was collected by trained medical students of Taibah University

None	288	53.8
Medical	51	9.5
Non-medical	196	36.7
Number of children		
One	174	28.3
Two-three	234	38.1
>Three	206	33.6

Table 1: Baseline characteristics (n=614).

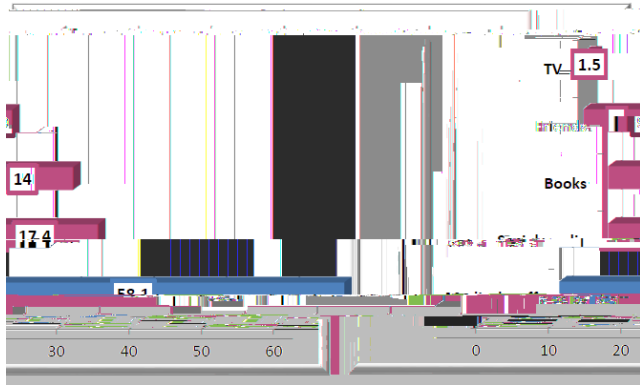


Figure 1:

	Level of knowledge about child vaccination		p-value*
	Insufficient N=304	Sufficient N=310	
Gender			
Male (n=86)	42 (48.8)	44 (51.2)	0.893
Female (n=528)	262 (49.6)	266 (50.4)	
Age (years)			
<20 (n=10)	5 (50.0)	5 (50.0)	0.008
20-30 (n=248)	143 (57.7)	105 (42.3)	
31-40 (n=266)	120 (45.1)	146 (54.9)	
>40 (n=90)	36 (40.0)	54 (60.0)	
Residence			
Inside Al-Madinah (n=569)	277 (48.7)	292 (51.3)	0.144
Outside Al-Madinah (n=45)	27 (60.0)	18 (40.0)	
Educational level			
Below secondary school (n=20)	8 (40.0)	12 (60.0)	0.466
Secondary school (n=114)	56 (49.1)	58 (50.9)	
University (n=429)	219 (51.0)	210 (49.0)	
Postgraduate (n=51)	21 (41.2)	30 (58.8)	
Job (n=535)			
None (n=288)	146 (50.7)	142 (49.3)	0.59
Medical (n=51)	28 (54.9)	23 (45.1)	
Non-medical (n=196)	93 (47.4)	103 (52.6)	
Number of children			
One (n=174)	93 (53.4)	81 (46.6)	<0.001
Two-three (n=234)	132 (56.4)	102 (43.6)	
>three (n=206)	79 (38.3)	127 (61.7)	
Source of information			
Medical staff (n=357)	169 (47.3)	188 (52.7)	
Social media (n=107)			

Statements	Positive responses No.	%
Vaccinations are important to keep child's health (Agree)	543	88.4
Benefits of vaccinations exceeds their harms (Agree)	500	81.4
Child vaccination is safe and not harmful (Agree)	478	77.9
Vaccine has dangerous side effects (Disagree)	340	55.4
Vaccine doesn't give child immunity against infectious diseases and he may get infection even after vaccination (Disagree)	264	43
Compliance with the MOH vaccination schedule is very important (Agree)		

One (n=174)	80 (46.0)	94 (54.0)	
Two-three (n=234)	116 (49.6)	118 (50.4)	
>three (n=206)	72 (35.0)	134 (65.0)	0.007
Source of information			
Medical staff (n=357)	134 (37.5)	223 (62.5)	
Social media (n=107)	69 (64.5)	38 (35.5)	
Books (n=86)	30 (34.9)	56 (65.1)	
Friends (n=55)	32 (58.2)	23 (41.8)	
TV (n=9)	3 (33.3)	6 (66.7)	<0.001
Knowledge about child vaccination			
Insufficient (n=304)	179 (58.9)	125 (41.1)	
Sufficient (n=310)	89 (28.7)	221 (71.3)	<0.001

*Chi-square test



Figure 4 Parents preferring to vaccinate child against seasonal

Discussion

Worldwide, childhood vaccination prevents almost two million deaths/year [1,5]. Despite of that, 2.5 million deaths a year continue to be resulted from diseases that can be prevented by vaccination, mainly among children under 5 years old in poor Asian and African countries [1]. In many developing countries, vaccination coverage has reached a plateau and even a good coverage rate has been attained, and reaching children not yet vaccinated has proved [6]. So, there is an urgent need to increase vaccination coverage through encouraging parents to make their children vaccinated. this study was carried out to assess knowledge and attitude of the parents toward children's obligatory vaccination in Al-Madinah as well as to identify their determinants.

In accordance with others, the majority of parents participated in this study were mothers. is because in our culture as well as in others, mothers have the responsibility of taking children to health care facilities [7,8].

In the current study, 92.8% of the children were vaccinated according to MOH vaccination schedule. rate is higher than that reported from a study carried out recently in India (88%) [9]. higher rate could be attributed partially to the parents' knowledge that vaccination is mandatory and required for school registration.

older parents tended to watch TV more and in this study having information from TV was associated with higher knowledge and better attitudes compared to other sources particularly social media. Also, older parents from younger in a variety of physical/biological, psychological/mental and social dimensions.

It has been reported by Nichter that the attitudes of parents are more strongly by the perceived of vaccination or by the perceived risks of not being vaccinated [15]. In the present study, majority of parents agreed that vaccinations are important to keep