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Attitudes Towards COVID-19 Booster Vaccines, Vaccine Preferences, Child Immunization, and Recent Issues in Vaccination Among University Students in Jordan

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Abstract

Background: Although COVID-19 vaccines have been readily available in Jordan for more than six months, Jordan still suffers from a low vaccination rate of 43%. In addition, only 6% of the Jordanian population has taken a booster vaccine according to the Jordanian Ministry of Health. These low rates highlight the need for improving attitudes towards vaccination in Jordan.

Objective: The aim of this study was to explore attitudes towards recent issues in vaccination such as vaccine preferences, booster vaccines, and child immunization among university students in Jordan.

Method: An online cross sectional study design was utilized with multi stage sampling. A Jordanian university with a medical school was chosen at random. The population was then stratified into three strata: medical, non-medical health, and non-health schools. The survey asked about COVID-19 vaccine preferences and factors affecting COVID-19 vaccine preferences. The survey also asked about recent issues in vaccination such as child vaccination and booster vaccines.

Results: 417 responses were collected. The majority of respondents were female (69.3%). Respondents were distributed almost equally among the three strata (35.3%, 33.6%, 31.2%). Most respondents (54.7%) preferred the Pfizer vaccine, and 6.2% refused to take any vaccine. A chi-square test showed that medical students were significantly more likely to choose "any vaccine" ($p < 0.001$). 48% of respondents showed trust WHO (world health organization) standards for COVID-19 vaccines. Most respondents (71%) believed that vaccination is crucial to prevent COVID-19 surges from variant strains. 44.6% of respondents believed that children should be included in vaccination campaigns, and 70% believed that COVID-19 booster vaccines required more studies to prove their efficacy.

Conclusion: Students had mixed attitudes towards many recent issues concerning COVID-19 vaccination. Studying these factors and attitudes in more depth and in different populations can pave the way towards improving vaccination rates worldwide.

Keywords: COVID-19 vaccines, booster vaccines, child immunization

Biography

I am Jawad Aiman Alrawabdeh, a 3rd year medical student at the University of Jordan. I am a researcher interested in the field of epidemiology and public health with an interest in infectious disease. I have previously worked on an article related to knowledge and attitudes of university students towards the human microbiota and its effect on human health. I am also currently working on a project assessing attitudes towards recent issues in COVID-19 vaccinations among university students. I have previously published an article with multiple other articles in submission. I am also interested in hematological malignancies such as acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndrome. Presenting my research at your prestigious conference would help propel me further towards my goal.