

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices on Adolescent Vaccination Among Parents of Adolescent Patient seen at Out Patient Department of a Tertiary Medical Center

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INTRODUCTION:

Vaccination programs are the most successful and most cost-effective public health intervention available to avert vaccine-preventable diseases and deaths. Adequate parental knowledge regarding vaccination and vaccine preventable diseases is imperative to ensure compliance to the needed immunization shots during teenage years.

This study was undertaken to achieve greater understanding of the awareness, attitudes, and practices of parents about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases for adolescents.

OBJECTIVE: To determine the parental knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding adolescent vaccination.

METHODS: A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out. Included in the participants were parents of adolescent patients aged 11 to 18 years old consulting at the PCMC-OPD. A self-administered questionnaire was adopted and modified from the Public Health England (PHE) Young People and Parents Childhood Immunization Survey. A total of 95 questionnaires were accomplished from consenting guardians from February to March 2021.

RESULTS: Of the 95 participants who completed the questionnaire, less than half (46.32%) had a knowledge regarding adolescent vaccination. Majority of the parents recognized the importance of immunization against vaccine preventable diseases. Social media (56.82%) was the primary source of information but healthcare professionals (94.32%) most trusted sources of information.

Trust in vaccinations was moderately high, 81.05% of the parents agreed that vaccines are generally safe. Cost of vaccines plays a major factor. Most parents agreed to have their child vaccinated if the vaccine will be administered for free.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Parental decisions on adolescent vaccinations are influenced by their knowledge and perception regarding health and vaccine preventable diseases. Healthcare providers have a major role in providing reliable information on vaccination, as well as in addressing fears and concerns pertinent to vaccination. Similar studies are needed including larger number of populations to establish a nationwide data to help the government and policymakers to improve programs regarding adolescent vaccination.

KEYWORDS: Adolescent vaccination, immunization

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