

COMPLIANCE OF HEALTH WORKERS TO H1N1 VACCINATION

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Abstract

The Pandemic H1N1/09 virus is a swine origin Influenza A virus subtype H1N1 virus strain responsible for the 2009 flu pandemic. The influenza virus has characteristics of antigenic variation due to antigenic shift and drift. The human race does not have immunity against this new reassorted and novel virus that is why it has potential to spread world wide. Epidemic started in Mexico in March, 2009 spread to whole of world within two months time.

As of 24 May 2010, 10193 cases of swine flu have been confirmed with 1035 deaths. With evidence on the effectiveness of vaccination in the control and prevention of seasonal influenza, vaccination for pandemic influenza is one of the most important primary preventive measures to reduce the disease burden associated with influenza A (H1N1) infection.

Several high risk groups have been identified as "the priority group" to receive the influenza A (H1N1) vaccination and among these, healthcare workers have been identified "as a first priority" to be vaccinated against influenza A (H1N1) by the World Health Organization. Also previous studies that have examined the acceptability of seasonal influenza vaccination among healthcare workers and found low acceptability.

The willingness of the healthcare workers to accept the H1N1 vaccination needs to be assessed. Not only the willingness but their fears about vaccination must be known so that they can be further educated on vaccine and

a good compliance can be obtained.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the awareness of health care workers about the H1N1 vaccination.
2. To study the current status H1N1 vaccination
3. To study the willingness of health care workers to accept the vaccination against H1N1.
4. To study the factors associated with their practices for vaccination against H1N1.

Methodology

Type of study: Cross sectional study

Study Area: The study will be conducted in Maulana Azad Medical College and associated Lok Nayak hospital.

Sample size

The compliance rate among health workers for H1N1 vaccine was 27% according to previous study done in Hong Kong. So based on this compliance rate taking worst acceptable rate of 17% and at 95% confidence level the sample size for the study came out to be 74.

Study tool: A pre-tested questionnaire will be designed consisting of items on demographic profile, attitude toward vaccination, acceptance of H1N1 and reasons for compliance.

Study Procedure: Proportionate to size health workers from microbiology and medi-

cine departments, casualty and swine flu ward will be selected.

The information collected from individual subjects with the help of questionnaire will be fed in excel and analyzed with the help of Epi-info WHO software package

Ethical Issues: All subjects will be informed about the study and their voluntary participation will be sought. The information will be confidential. Subjects will be motivated to get the vaccination according to Government protocol.

IMPLICATIONS OF STUDY

1. H1N1 infection is a public health problem due to its pandemicity. This pandemic can be prevented only by vaccination which is

advocated by WHO and Government of India.

2. It is important to know about their acceptance of vaccination and also reasons for non-compliance. Understanding of various reasons for non-compliance would be useful for designing behavior change communication intervention program so that positive behavior in risk group such as health workers can be instilled.