

Two-Wave Surveys of Caregivers' Intentions to Vaccinate Their Children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder against COVID-19 and Concerns about Vaccination in Taiwan

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Background

Caregivers' intention to vaccinate their children is one of core factors influencing the vaccination against COVID-19 in children.

Aims & Objectives

This study aimed to compare the levels of intention to vaccinate children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and concerns about vaccinating children between caregivers in two surveys before and after the massive outbreak of COVID-19 in Taiwan.

Methods

In total, 161 caregivers of children with ADHD were recruited to complete an online questionnaire in the first survey; 252 caregivers of children with ADHD were recruited to complete a paper-and-pencil questionnaire. Caregiver' intention to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 and concerns about vaccination were assessed.

Results

The level of caregivers' intention to vaccinate their children with ADHD was significantly higher in the second study compared with the first survey (7.85 ± 2.23 vs. 6.08 ± 2.85 , $t = -6.968$, $p < .001$). The proportions of caregivers who refuse to (1.59% vs. 11.80%) and hesitate to vaccinate their child (15.87% vs. 25.47%) were significantly lower in the second study compared with the first survey, whereas the proportions of caregivers who relied on physicians' recommendation (46.43% vs. 39.75%) and definitely willed to vaccinate their child (36.11% vs. 22.98%) were significantly higher in the second study compared with the first survey. The safety of vaccines, effectiveness of vaccines, and the process of developing vaccines were the three main concerns about vaccinating children against COVID-19 in both the first and second surveys. The concern about money spent on money for vaccination was significantly lower in the second study compared with the first survey (40.48% vs. 63.35%, $\chi^2 = 20.570$, $p < .001$).

Discussion & Conclusion

The intention to vaccinate their children with ADHD among caregivers significantly increased from before to after the massive outbreak of COVID-19 in Taiwan. The safety of vaccines, effectiveness of vaccines, and the process of developing vaccines were the main concerns of caregivers about vaccinating their children with ADHD against COVID-19.