

Vaccine Hesitancy: A Contemporary Issue for New COVID-19 Vaccination

Dear Editor,

There are some recent reports of vaccine hesitancy globally toward the new coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines. Vaccine hesitancy is an important issue to be discussed in preventive medicine. There are many factors that can lead to vaccine hesitancy.^[1,2] Regarding the new COVID-19 vaccine, a considerable high rate of hesitancy among local people is reported.^[3,4] There are many factors that underline the COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. First, confidence in the vaccines and vaccination system is the important focus. The data on the efficacy and safety of the new vaccine is presently limited. The reports on vaccine efficacy usually give different results and the cost effectiveness of different vaccines is different.^[5] Due to the lack of data, the vaccine is usually not recommended for some specific populations such as pediatric and obstetric cases. Due to a recent report from the US, the willingness of local people to get COVID-19 vaccine would increase if there were additional data on increased efficacy of the vaccine.^[6] Second, complacency can also result in hesitancy. If the perceived risk of the specific disease is low, one might select to get vaccine. Indeed, the young usually get mild disease and it might generally be recommended for no vaccination in the pediatric group. Third, convenience is also important issues. In many setting, the process to get vaccination might be difficulty. Some settings might require registration by complex processes such as online registration that will not be applicable for some local people. Lack of convenience is a possible overlooked problem for the poor, underprivileged, and minority population groups. Fourth, communication can also bring hesitancy. Fake news on social media can result in hesitancy. It is no doubt that it the anti-vaccine group use the social media as tool for communication, it can rapidly affect in vaccine fearfulness among the local people.^[7] In addition, the quality of communication by the local government might not effective. Based on freedom in communication, many medical scientists might give different ideas, pro- and cons- on the new vaccine and the local people might get confusion. The considerations on the mentioned factors are necessary for public health policies makers for implementation on the COVID-19 vaccination program.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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