Attitudes of healthcare workers towards COVID-19 vaccination and related factors: A Rapid Systematic Review

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Abstract

Objective: COVID-19 has caused millions of deaths worldwide, and herd immunity through vaccination is a key measure to control COVID-19 pandemic. However, vaccine hesitancy remains a public health threat which is still common among healthcare workers (HCWs). This systematic review aimed to synthesize evidence on HCWs' attitudes of COVID-19 vaccination and analyze associated factors to provide information for vaccine policy development and practice.

Methods: We searched PubMed, Embase, ScienceDirect, Web of Science, CNKI, VIP and Wan fang Data for literature published by 12 February 2021. PRISMA guidelines were followed. Two researchers screened the literature, and fifteen articles were included in the systematic review. Due to the nature and heterogeneity of these studies, it is not suitable for a meta-analysis. Therefore, this review conducted an integrated approach.

Results: Vaccine acceptance varied widely ranged from 27.7% to 77.3%. HCWs had positive attitudes towards future COVID-19 vaccines while vaccine hesitancy was still common. Demographic variables such as males, older age, and physicians were positive predictive factors. Females and nurses had more vaccine hesitancy. Previous influenza vaccination and self-perceived risk were facilitators. Concerns for safety, efficacy and effectiveness, distrust in government were barriers. Influences of direct (COVID-19) patient care towards vaccination intention were less conclusive.

Conclusion: Developing vaccination campaign strategies should be based on the social, political and economic context of the country. Meanwhile, monitoring the HCWs response during vaccination and ongoing adjustment of vaccination interventions based on HCWs response should be considered. Tailored communication strategies were needed to increase the uptake rate of COVID-19 vaccine among HCWs. More importantly, more data and information on the safety and efficacy of vaccines should be provided with transparency.