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Acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination and correlated variables among global populations: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Ricvan Dana Nindrea a, *, Elly Usman b, Yusticia Katar b, Nissa Prima Sari c

a Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Andalas, Padang, 25127, Indonesia
b Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Andalas, Padang, 25127, Indonesia
c Department of Midwifery, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Andalas, Padang, 25127, Indonesia

A R T I C L E   I N F O

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A B S T R A C T

Introduction: The most awaited solution is an efficient COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccine acceptance has not been studied in a meta-analysis. The objective of this research was to find the acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination and correlated variables.

Methods: A systematic review of studies on acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination and correlated variables in the ProQuest, PubMed, and EBSCO to find relevant articles published between January 2020 and March 2021. Using fixed and random-effect models, the risk factors Pooled Odds Ratio (POR) were measured. The heterogeneity was calculated using the I-squared formula. Egger’s and Begg’s tests were utilised to determine publication bias. STATA 16.0 was used for all data processing and analysis.

Results: This study results showed the related factors for COVID-19 vaccination acceptance, high income has the highest odd ratio (POR = 2.36), followed by encountered with COVID-19 (POR = 2.34), fear about COVID-19 (POR = 2.07), perceived benefits (POR = 1.81), flu vaccine during the previous season (POR = 1.69), healthcare workers (POR = 1.62), male (POR = 1.61), married (POR = 1.59), perceived risk (POR = 1.52), trust in health system (POR = 1.52), chronic diseases (POR = 1.47), high education (POR = 1.46), high level of knowledge (POR = 1.39), female (1.39), and older age (POR = 1.07). The heterogeneity calculation showed homogenous among studies in high income, fear about COVID-19, healthcare workers, married, chronic diseases, and female (Ι² ≤ 50%). For the studies included in this review, there was no apparent publication bias.

Conclusion: The analysis of this review may be useful to the nation in determining the best method for implementing COVID-19 mass vaccination programs based on relevant factors that influence vaccine acceptance.

1. Introduction

Since 2020, COVID-19 widespread has become a serious community health concern. The COVID-19 emergency afflicted many nations. By March 2021, there had been over 128.2 million confirmed cases of the disease, with 2.8 million deaths. COVID-19 not only has a major health effect, but it also has a significant economic impact that should not be ignored. It has resulted in a major decline in workforces and an increase in jobless around the world. These negative consequences have prompted pharmaceutical firms to produce a vaccine as soon as possible. At the end of 2020, multiple vaccines to prevent COVID-19 infection were approved, and there were more than fifty COVID-19 vaccine potential in production. Vaccination programs have started in a number of countries around the world. Despite this, people continue to have concerns about vaccine safety and effectiveness, including the durability of COVID-19 defense, as many cases of reinfection have been documented. Furthermore, the rapid production of vaccines raises concerns about their efficacy. Vaccine production has historically been connected to harmful effects.

For decades, vaccines have proven to be an effective means of disease prevention. Vaccine hesitancy and refusal, on the other hand, are major issues around the world, causing the World Health Organization (WHO) to name this confusion as one of the top ten health risks for 2019. Vaccine apprehension has been linked to religious values, personal
Fig. 1. The PRISMA flowcharts.
| First author, year | Year of study | Region | Study design | Total samples | Determinant factors (OR, 95% CI) | NOS |
|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Al-Qerem et al. | 2021 | Middle Eastern | Cross sectional | 1,144 | Older age (2.42, 1.22–4.79) | 7 |
| | | | | | High level of knowledge (1.50, 1.38–1.62) | |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (4.86, 3.53–6.74) | 7 |
| | | | | | Older age (1.47, 1.14–1.89) | |
| | | | | | High income (2.31, 1.85–2.88) | 6 |
| | | | | | High education (1.82, 1.55–2.13) | |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (7.78, 5.75–10.53) | |
| | | | | | Chronic disease (1.26, 1.04–1.53) | |
| | | | | | Female (1.40, 1.10–1.80) | 7 |
| | | | | | Older age (3.10, 1.80–5.30) | |
| | | | | | Chronic disease (1.40, 1.10–2.0) | |
| Cserotti et al. | 2021 | Italy | Cross sectional | 2,267 | Male (1.54, 1.28–1.85) | 7 |
| | | | | | Chronic disease (1.55, 1.15–2.09) | |
| | | | | | Older age (2.22, 0.96–5.17) | 7 |
| Ditekemena et al. | 2021 | Republic of Congo | Cross sectional | 4,131 | Male (1.61, 0.97–2.67) | 7 |
| | | | | | Healthcare workers (2.26, 1.34–3.81) | 7 |
| | | | | | Female (1.89, 1.20–2.97) | |
| | | | | | Chronic disease (1.39, 0.98–1.97) | 7 |
| | | | | | Older age (2.03, 1.48–2.77) | 7 |
| | | | | | Chronic disease (1.89, 1.50–2.38) | |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (1.09, 1.00–1.17) | |
| | | | | | Perceived benefits of vaccination (1.79, 1.59–1.99) | |
| | | | | | Trust in health system (1.36, 1.25–1.48) | |
| | | | | | Flu vaccination during the previous season (5.67, 4.14–7.77) | 6 |
| | | | | | Flu vaccine during the season (1.35, 1.24–1.47) | |
| | | | | | Male (2.21, 1.69–2.90) | 6 |
| | | | | | Older age (3.45, 1.53–7.77) | |
| | | | | | Flu vaccine during the previous season (7.22, 5.68–9.19) | |
| | | | | | Fear about COVID-19 (2.09, 1.58–2.61) | |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (2.09, 1.70–2.57) | |
| | | | | | Married (1.69, 1.33–2.14) | 7 |
| | | | | | Flu vaccine during the previous season (2.25, 1.74–2.93) | |
| | | | | | Female (1.22, 0.96–1.55) | 5 |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (3.01, 2.38–3.79) | |
| | | | | | Perceived benefits of vaccination (1.57, 1.05–2.36) | |
| | | | | | Married (1.25, 0.85–1.83) | |
| | | | | | Healthcare workers (1.92, 1.31–2.81) | |
| | | | | | Encountered with confirmed COVID-19 (8.83, 1.18–66.04) | |
| | | | | | Older age (1.73, 1.48–2.02) | 5 |
| | | | | | High education (1.34, 1.21–1.48) | |
| | | | | | Trust in health system (1.67, 1.54–1.80) | |
| | | | | | Male (1.71, 1.42–2.06) | 6 |
| | | | | | Older age (2.25, 1.76–2.87) | |
| | | | | | Healthcare workers (1.57, 1.33–1.86) | |
| | | | | | Fear about COVID-19 (2.09, 1.75–2.49) | |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (1.83, 1.54–2.16) | |
| | | | | | Male (2.78, 1.69–4.58) | 7 |
| | | | | | Encountered with confirmed COVID-19 (1.63, 1.14–2.33) | |
| | | | | | Flu vaccine during the previous season (2.03, 1.47–2.81) | |
| | | | | | Married (1.57, 1.20–2.06) | 7 |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (2.48, 1.11–3.95) | |
| | | | | | Trust in the health system (2.85, 1.03–4.80) | |
| | | | | | Female (1.55, 1.01–2.38) | 7 |
| | | | | | Older age (2.10, 1.04–4.23) | 7 |
| | | | | | Healthcare workers (1.43, 1.06–1.93) | |
| | | | | | Perceived benefits of vaccination (3.14, 2.05–4.83) | |
| | | | | | Encountered with confirmed COVID-19 (1.65, 1.31–2.09) | |
| | | | | | Male (1.81, 0.99–3.29) | 5 |
| | | | | | Older age (1.04, 0.99–1.04) | 7 |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (1.03, 0.85–1.81) | |
| | | | | | High level of knowledge (1.08, 1.04–1.39) | |
| Al-Qerem et al. | 2021 | Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia | Cross sectional (online questionnaire) | 3,414 | Male (1.54, 1.28–1.85) | 7 |
| | | | | | Chronic disease (1.55, 1.15–2.09) | |
| | | | | | Older age (2.22, 0.96–5.17) | 7 |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (2.48, 1.11–3.95) | |
| | | | | | Trust in the health system (2.85, 1.03–4.80) | |
| | | | | | Female (1.55, 1.01–2.38) | 7 |
| | | | | | Older age (2.10, 1.04–4.23) | 7 |
| | | | | | Healthcare workers (1.43, 1.06–1.93) | |
| | | | | | Perceived benefits of vaccination (3.14, 2.05–4.83) | |
| | | | | | Encountered with confirmed COVID-19 (1.65, 1.31–2.09) | |
| | | | | | Male (1.81, 0.99–3.29) | 5 |
| | | | | | Older age (1.04, 0.99–1.04) | 7 |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (1.03, 0.85–1.81) | |
| | | | | | High level of knowledge (1.08, 1.04–1.39) | |
| Al-Mohaithef et al. | 2020 | Saudi Arabia | Cross sectional (web survey) | 992 | Married (1.57, 1.20–2.06) | 7 |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (2.48, 1.11–3.95) | |
| | | | | | Trust in the health system (2.85, 1.03–4.80) | |
| | | | | | Female (1.55, 1.01–2.38) | 7 |
| | | | | | Older age (2.10, 1.04–4.23) | 7 |
| | | | | | Healthcare workers (1.43, 1.06–1.93) | |
| | | | | | Perceived benefits of vaccination (3.14, 2.05–4.83) | |
| | | | | | Encountered with confirmed COVID-19 (1.65, 1.31–2.09) | |
| | | | | | Male (1.81, 0.99–3.29) | 5 |
| | | | | | Older age (1.04, 0.99–1.04) | 7 |
| | | | | | Perceived risk (1.03, 0.85–1.81) | |
| | | | | | High level of knowledge (1.08, 1.04–1.39) | |

(continued on next page)
opinions, and safety issues based on widespread misconceptions, such as the connection between vaccines and autism, brain injury, and other disorders, according to various reports.\(^\text{13}\) Regrettably, there have been inadequate research undertaken in order to determine the global population’s attitudes toward vaccination. No previously published work has been analyzed by meta-analysis to our knowledge. The findings of this study may help the government figure out the important way to execute COVID-19 mass vaccination programs.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Study design and research sample

To assess current articles related to the acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination and correlated variables, a systematic review and meta-analysis studies were conducted. The preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) guideline was followed in this study.\(^\text{11}\) There are three databases, i.e. ProQuest, PubMed, and EBSCO were used to search for relevant articles published between January 2020 and March 2021. In this research, the acceptance of COVID-19 vaccine was the dependent variable. The independent variables were the determinant factors of COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.

2.2. Research procedure

The keywords used to search related articles in ProQuest, PubMed, and EBSCO between January 2020 and March 2021 were: COVID-19 OR Coronavirus AND Vaccine AND Acceptance. The included articles limited to original or research articles, with English texts and with human as study subjects. The inclusion criteria included study on the acceptance of COVID-19 vaccine and related factors with study design of cross-sectional. The study exclusion criteria included full text version was unavailable, unrelated topics or subjects, and data in publications that could not be extracted or used for further review. The Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale (NOS) modified for cross-sectional study was used to evaluate the articles’ quality. 0–3, 4–6, and 7–9 were used to categorize articles into poor, medium, and high quality categories.\(^\text{12}\) The PRISMA flowcharts were used to illustrate the steps involved in finding research articles (Fig. 1).

2.3. Data analysis

For further data analysis, the Pooled Odds Ratio (POR) of the effect size of each risk factor from the derived data was determined with a confidence degree of 95%. The heterogeneity was calculated using the I\(^2\) formula, and I\(^2\) > 50% indicated that there was heterogeneity between studies. If the result was heterogeneous, the random effect model was used, and if the result was homogeneous, the fixed effect model was used. Furthermore, the findings were viewed as forest plots, and publication bias was assessed using Egger’s and Begg’s tests. The p > 0.05 results from the two tests revealed that there was no publication bias among the studies. For lower middle income countries (LMICs), restricted-maximum likelihood random effects meta-regression was used to examine the role of covariate. STATA 16.0 was used for all data processing and analysis.

3. Results

This systematic review study included 24 recent studies conducted to the acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination and related factors (Table 1). The total sample from the included studies was 56,913 participants.\(^\text{13–36}\) Table 1 is based on a synthesis of studies correlated variables for acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination, including 24 cross sectional studies. This study found factors contributing to acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination included older age, male, female, married, high education, high income, healthcare workers, chronic diseases, high level of knowledge, perceived risk, perceived benefits, fear about COVID-19, encountered with COVID-19, flu vaccine during the previous season and trust in health system.

| First author, year | Year of study | Region | Study design | Total samples | Determinant factors (OR, 95% CI) |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Wang et al. (c)\(^\text{36}\) | 2020          | China  | Cross sectional | 2,058         | Male (1.25, 1.03–1.52)          |
|                     |               |        |              |               | Married (1.70, 1.26–2.29)       |
|                     |               |        |              |               | Perceived benefits of vaccination (1.56, 1.08–2.25) |
| Total samples       |               |        |              | 56,913        |                                 |

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval; OR = odds ratio; NOS, Newcastle–Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale.

4. Discussion

Our results found high income had high acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination. The acceptance rate rises with economic status. A study highlighted the importance of community confidence in vaccine uptake and found a scarcity of studies in low and middle-income households on vaccine uptake based on community trust.\(^\text{37}\) A higher willingness to receive COVID-19 vaccination was correlated with a higher income level, likely due to better access to high-quality information, such as through better television channels and/or through communication with people living abroad in COVID-19-affected countries, and/or because such people tend to live in towns where the virus is more prevalent.\(^\text{15}\) Encountered with COVID-19, fear of COVID-19 and perceived risk

Table 1 (continued)
Table 2
Meta-estimate of COVID-19 vaccination acceptance and correlated variables among global populations.

| Related factors | First author | OR (95% CI) | (OR) (95% CI) | Heterogeneity |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Older Age       | 1.07         | 92.7        | <0.001        |

| Male            | 1.61         | 70.6        | 0.004         |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Healthcare      | 1.62         | 3.9         | 0.373         |
| Chronic         | 1.47         | 45.4        | 0.120         |
| Disease         | 1.39         | 93.4        | <0.001        |
| High level of   | 1.50         | 1.08        |               |
| knowledge       | 1.52         | 97.5        | <0.001        |
| Perceived       | 1.81         | 59.9        | 0.058         |
| risk            | 2.07         | 0           | 0.852         |
| Perceived       | 2.34         | 93.3        | <0.001        |
| benefits        | 2.07         | 0           | 0.852         |
| COVID-19        | 2.07         | 0           | 0.852         |
| Encounter       | 2.34         | 93.3        | <0.001        |

(continued on next page)
have found to be positively correlated with vaccine acceptance in this study. Previous studies in Asia have shown that a positive attitude toward vaccination is linked to a perception of risk or fear about COVID-19. Another study showed that a high perceived risk was related to COVID-19 vaccine acceptance among Saudi Arabian community members and Congo healthcare staff. As a consequence, it is crucial to boost community expectations of risk. Low risk perception can be linked to vaccine acceptance, as well as social distancing and other community health defensive measures. These associations may be complicated; for example, a person who practices social distancing strategies can believe their risk is low but still wants to get vaccinated.

Table 2 (continued)

| Related factors | First author | OR (95% CI) | POR (95% CI) | Heterogeneity |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Flu vaccine during the previous season | Alqudeimat et al. | 5.67 (4.14-7.77) | 1.69 (1.57-1.82) | 98.3 <0.001 |
| Flu vaccine during the previous season | Gagneux et al. | 7.22 (5.68-9.19) | 1.52 (1.44-1.61) | 86.5 0.001 |
| Trust in health system | Lin et al. | 1.65 (1.31-2.09) | 1.52 (1.25-1.48) | 86.5 0.001 |
| Trust in health system | NBa et al. | 1.36 (1.25-1.48) | 1.52 (1.44-1.61) | 86.5 0.001 |
| Trust in health system | Lazarus et al. | 1.67 (1.54-1.80) | 1.52 (1.44-1.61) | 86.5 0.001 |
| Trust in health system | Alqudeimat et al. | 2.25 (1.74-2.93) | 1.52 (1.44-1.61) | 86.5 0.001 |
| Trust in health system | Wang et al. | 2.03 (1.47-2.81) | 1.52 (1.44-1.61) | 86.5 0.001 |

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval; OR = odds ratio; POR= Pooled odds ratio; I²> 50%, heterogeneity.

Fig. 2. Forest plots of COVID-19 vaccination acceptance and correlated variables among global populations.

According to the findings of this report, there is a correlation between influenza vaccination during the past season and COVID-19 vaccine acceptance. Related positively flu vaccination during the past season to COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.

Table 3

| Related factors | Study bias | Egger’s test | Begg’s test |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Older age | 0.925 | 0.139 |
| Male | 0.269 | 0.573 |
| Female | 0.137 | 0.052 |
| Married | 0.159 | 0.174 |
| High education | 0.112 | 0.317 |
| Low income | 0.115 | 0.317 |
| Healthcare workers | 0.304 | 0.174 |
| Chronic diseases | 0.804 | 1.000 |
| High level of knowledge | 0.811 | 0.317 |
| Perceived risk | 0.577 | 0.458 |
| Perceived benefits | 0.740 | 0.497 |
| Fear about COVID-19 | 0.160 | 0.227 |
| Encountered with COVID-19 | 0.051 | 0.174 |
| Flu vaccine during the previous season | 0.280 | 1.000 |
| Trust in health system | 0.767 | 0.602 |

p > 0.05, no publication bias.

Fig. 3. The association between LMICs and COVID-19 vaccine acceptance based on meta-regression.

Vaccination intention is strongly influenced by perceived benefits. Perceived advantages have been found to be determinant factors in some studies. In the context of vaccination, perceived benefits are characterized as a person’s attitudes toward vaccination. It’s important to have public health intervention programs that concentrate on changing people’s perceptions of vaccination’s benefits while also removing the obstacles that have been identified.

According to the findings of this report, there is a correlation between influenza vaccination during the past season and COVID-19 vaccination acceptance. Related positively flu vaccination during the past season to COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.
vaccine acceptance in this study. Previous studies have shown that men, women, and married people are more likely to support immediate pandemic vaccination.\(^{12,24,27}\) This may be due to everyone at risk in the gender group and marital status. Older people agreed to be vaccinated in our report. This may be because the belief that older adults and people with severe comorbidities or chronic diseases are more vulnerable to COVID-19’s negative effects can cause a lot of anxiety among the elderly.\(^{13}\)

Individuals with university/higher levels of education recorded having a substantially higher level of knowledge about COVID-19 vaccine acceptance. Related scenarios were observed in previous studies, showing that people with a higher educational experience learned more about COVID-19.\(^{13,15}\) It’s likely that more informed people are more aware of and caring about their health and well-being as a result of improved access to more media sources, as well as becoming more interested in life activities that may affect them.

Participants’ confidence in the health-care system was discovered to be a major indicator of their ability to use the COVID-19 vaccine. In response to the present situation, a low confidence in the health system could put community health at risk. The application of preventive health services like vaccination has been linked to a higher level of confidence in the health system.\(^{44,45}\)

This meta-analysis study has a number of limitations. Four articles seemed to be suitable for inclusion in this meta-analysis, but they lacked adequate evidence and had results that were insignificant for data estimation. This problem will exacerbate the risk of selection bias.

The results show that health departments should implement urgent health promotion services and disseminate more reliable information. Governments should take action to ensure that people have enough information, have healthy attitudes, and have positive opinions about COVID-19 vaccines.

5. Conclusion

This study results showed the related factors for COVID-19 vaccination acceptance, high income has the highest odd ratio, followed by encountered with COVID-19, fear about COVID-19, perceived benefits, flu vaccine during the previous season, healthcare workers, male, married, perceived risk, trust in health system, chronic diseases, high education, high level of knowledge, female, and older age. The heterogeneity calculation showed homogenous among studies in low income, fear about COVID-19, healthcare workers, married, chronic diseases, and female. The findings of this study may help the government figure out the best way to implement COVID-19 mass vaccination programs.

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