ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION OF HOSPITAL STAFF TOWARDS COVID-19 VACCINATION IN LAGOS NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: With the outbreak of Covid 19 disease in 2019, the race to get the disease under control has been tough. The advent of vaccines that were produced and given speedy approval has led to doubt about efficacy and the numerous side effects that are being reported as well as conspiracy theories have further cast aspersions on the vaccines. This led to this study to find out the attitude and perception of hospital staff of Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Yaba towards the Covid 19 vaccination since the hospital is one of the vaccination centres.

Methodology: This is a cross-sectional study**.** Job done by workers were stratified into clinical and non -clinical and studied using a questionnaire which had 5 parts: socio-demographic, attitude, perception, PHQ 9 (to screen for depression) and GAD 7(to screen for anxiety). A total of 700 questionnaires were sent out and 504 (72%) were filled properly.

Results: Male to female proportion was 45.8% vs 54.2% while clinical to non -clinical workers was 38.9% vs 61.1%. Type of job was significantly associated with "no reduction in Covid 19 cases without vaccination ($p=0.02$), paying to receive vaccine ($p=0.021$) and Anxiety ($p=0.032$). Religion was associated with safety of vaccines ($p<0.001$), vaccine essential ($p=0.02$) and vaccine not able to eradicate disease ($p<0.001$). Educational status significantly associated with side effects of vaccines ($p=0.015$) and inability to eradicate disease with vaccine alone ($p=0.039$). Marital status was associated with who is vaccinated first ($p=0.007$). Almost all respondents (98.4%) believe vaccine should be free while just 18.7% were willing to pay to get the vaccine.

Conclusion: There are still doubts on the ability of the vaccine to adequately curtail Covid 19 disease and more education and advocacy needs to be done especially concerning religious beliefs to make the vaccination a huge success.

Key Words: Attitude, Perception, Staff, Covid, Vaccination