

10.19 ATTITUDES TO COVID-19 VACCINATION AMONGST HIGH RISK OUTPATIENT POPULATIONS

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Introduction:

Vaccination plays a vital role in reducing COVID-19 related hospitalisations and mortality. Despite this, many patients, even vulnerable individuals including those with chronic respiratory disease, diabetes mellitus and advancing age, may be unsure about the safety and effectiveness of vaccination.

Methods:

We utilised a questionnaire to explore the attitudes and knowledge regarding COVID-19 vaccination amongst patients attending respiratory, diabetic and medicine for the elderly outpatient clinics in St Michael's Hospital between May and June 2023. Participation was voluntary and anonymous.

Results:

One hundred patients completed the survey. Of these, 77% believed the COVID-19 vaccine was safe, with 20% unsure; 79% thought it was effective, while 18% were unsure. The main reason participants accepted vaccination was to protect themselves (68%), while concern regarding side effects being the most common reason to decline (18%). Interestingly, 77 patients believed they had all recommended doses of vaccine, however only 60 individuals had received the minimum recommended course and applicable boosters.

Conclusion:

Despite overall trust in COVID-19 vaccination, we observed a significant proportion of patients who were not adequately protected from COVID-19, unknowingly missing vaccine doses due to lack of knowledge about vaccine schedules and booster requirements.

Funding: No external funding was received

Conflict of Interest: The authors have no conflict of interest to declare