THE MEDICAL BULLETIN OF
SISLI ETFAL HOSPITAL

DOI: 10.14744/SEMB.2024.28159
Med Bull Sisli Etfal Hosp 2024;58(4):524–525

Letter to the Editor

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Pediatricians About COVID-19 Vaccination to Children: Correspondence

Hinpetch Daungsupawong,[1] Viroj Wiwanitkit[2]

[1]**Private Academic Consultant, Phonhong, Laos**
[2]**Saveetha Medical College and Hospital, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India**

Please cite this article as "Daungsupawong H, Wiwanitkit V. Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Pediatricians About COVID-19 Vaccination to Children: Correspondence. Med Bull Sisli Etfal Hosp 2024;58(4):524–525".

Dear Editor,

We would like to share ideas on the publication "Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Pediatricians About COVID-19 Vaccination to Children".[1] In order to assess their knowledge, attitudes, and practices about the COVID-19 immunization for children, 350 doctors participated in this study. Nearly all of the participants—who made up the majority—had already gotten the COVID-19 vaccination. While a sizable fraction of pediatricians advised COVID-19 immunization for all children, a sizable portion either did not recommend it at all or only recommended it for children in the risk category. The primary justifications given for not endorsing the vaccination for every kid were insufficient clinical research, long-term consequences, and adverse reactions to the vaccine.

The fact that this study was conducted at a single center presents a methodological flaw and may restrict how broadly the results may be applied. Furthermore, because the survey was administered using Google Forms, selection bias may have been introduced because the sample consisted only of pediatricians who freely answered the questionnaire. Moreover, the study did not thoroughly examine the particular elements that impacted the pediatricians' beliefs and practices about the COVID-19 immunization of children, despite the fact that this information could be very helpful for future studies.

Research in this field may go in this route in the future by way of a multicenter study that would include a more varied sample of pediatricians from different locations. Qualitative interviews or focus groups with pediatricians would also be helpful in order to obtain a better understanding of the variables driving their recommendations for the COVID-19 vaccination of children. Further research could also examine the efficacy of educational interventions designed to allay pediatricians' fears over the COVID-19 vaccine and boost their knowledge and confidence in offering it to youngsters. Overall, attaining high immunization rates and stopping the virus's spread depend heavily on maintaining observation of and improving clinicians' attitudes and understanding regarding COVID-19 vaccination for children.

Disclosures

Conflict of Interest: None declared.

Financial support (Funder's name): None.

Authorship Contributions: Concept – H.D., V.W.; Design – H.D., V.W.; Supervision – V.W.; Data collection &/or processing – H.D.; Analysis and/or interpretation – H.D.; Literature search – H.D.; Writing – H.D.; Critical review – H.D., V.W.

Use of AI for Writing Assistance: Nor declared.

Address for correspondence: Hinpetch Daungsupawong, MD. Private Academic Consultant, Phonhong, Laos
E-mail: hinpetchdaung@gmail.com

Submitted Date: May 29, 2024 **Accepted Date:** July 18, 2024 **Available Online Date:** December 24, 2024

©Copyright 2024 by The Medical Bulletin of Sisli Etfal Hospital - Available online at www.sislietfaltip.org
OPEN ACCESS This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

References

1. Kara Elitok G, Koc A, Apaydin S, Dincer BT, Bulbul A. Knowledge, attitudes and practices of pediatricians about COVID-19 vaccination to children. Sisli Etfal Hastan Tip Bul 2024;58:116–23. [CrossRef]

Author's Reply

Dear Editor,

We thank you for your comments on our recent article published in The Medical Bulletin of Sisli Etfal Hospital.[1] In our country, there are still not many studies examining the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of pediatricians regarding COVID-19 vaccination of children. In your letter, you wrote that our research was limited because it was conducted in a single center. Whereas the researchers in our study were from a single center, the participants were from many different centers (State Hospital, Training and Research Hospital, University Hospital, and Private Sector). The reasons why we chose to conduct our research through an online survey were to have easy access to different institutions and to allow respondents to answer the questions freely. This method may have led to selection bias, which we report as a limitation of the study in the discussion section.

As you mentioned, it would be useful to conduct qualitative interviews and focus group studies to examine the attitudes and behaviors of pediatricians. In addition, organizing training programs for pediatricians about COVID-19 vaccination and even childhood and adolescent vaccination may provide a positive attitude towards vaccination. As a matter of fact, in a study we conducted on adolescent vaccination in our country, we found that lack of information was an important barrier to vaccination, as in this study.[2]

References

1. Kara Elitok G, Koc A, Apaydin S, Dincer BT, Bulbul A. Knowledge, attitudes and practices of pediatricians about COVID-19 vaccination to children. Sisli Etfal Hastan Tip Bul 2024;58:116–23. [CrossRef]
2. Kara Elitok G, Bulbul L, Altuntas SB, Altuntas B, Günindi G, Haltaş M, et al. Recommending immunizations to adolescents in Turkey: a study of the knowledge, attitude, and practices of physicians. Hum Vaccin Immunother 2020;16:1132–8. [CrossRef]

Gizem Kara Elitok, Aybike Koc, Sebnem Apaydin, Busra Tetik Dincer, Ali Bulbul

Department of Pediatrics, University of Health Sciences Türkiye, Sisli Hamidiye Etfal Training and Research Hospital, Istanbul, Türkiye

E-mail: drgizemkara@gmail.com
Doi: 10.14744/SEMB.2024.00334