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## **Risk perception regarding COVID 19 and Hesitancy towards COVID 19 vaccine uptake among Health care professionals in selected tertiary care hospitals**

Nithin Kumar

*Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, nithin.gatty@manipal.edu*

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# Risk perception regarding COVID 19 and Hesitancy towards COVID 19 vaccine uptake among Health care professionals in selected tertiary care hospitals

## **Introduction**

“Vaccine hesitancy refers to a delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite the availability of vaccination services. Public concerns regarding its safety and reliability, their religious beliefs and their general risk perception of the disease have been driving factor determining the acceptance of the newer vaccines. The objectives of this research were to assess the risk perception of the health care professionals towards COVID 19 and COVID 19 vaccination using the Health Belief Model and to estimate the proportion of health care professionals hesitant towards COVID 19 vaccine uptake.

## **Methodology**

This cross-sectional study included all the health care professionals in the teaching hospitals affiliated with Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Mangalore. A sample size of 440 was calculated under the assumption that 50% of the health care professionals will be hesitant to take the COVID 19 vaccine, with 10% relative precision, 95% confidence interval and 10% non-response error. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic and time constrictions, a total of 110 participants. (46 doctors, 28 postgraduates, 36 nurses) were finally included. Institutional Ethics Committee approval was obtained before the commencement of the study. The data was collected using a pre-validated semi-structured questionnaire consisting of the following section: Section A: General participant information Section B: Risk perception towards COVID 19 and COVID 19 vaccination using Health belief model questionnaire; Section C: Acceptance / Hesitancy towards COVID 19 vaccine. The questionnaires were sent through a google doc link. Only the completed questionnaires were considered for final analysis. The collected data was entered in and analyzed using IBM SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) Statistics for Windows Version 25.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp. The results were expressed in mean (standard deviation), median (inter-quartile range), and proportions.

## **Results**

A higher proportion of the participants (44.5%) got information about the COVID-19 vaccine from the internet. Most of the participants (50.9%) strongly perceived that they were susceptible to COVID 19, while a large proportion of them (76.4%) perceived that they are not susceptible to severe disease. The majority of the participants had a poor belief about the safety of the vaccine. The majority (n=77,70%) of the study participants received the first dose. Among those who have received the vaccine, 17% were hesitant to receive the vaccine.

## **Conclusion**

Our study showed that even though the participants had a poor belief about the safety of the vaccine, only a small percentage of them were hesitant in receiving the vaccine.

**Keywords:** COVID 19,  
Health care professionals  
, Health belief,  
Vaccine,  
Mangalore