

Knowledge, attitude, practices and concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccine among patients and caregivers in Sibu Hospital

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global pandemic which has claimed millions of lives since its outbreak in year 2019. While mass immunization is crucial to get the pandemic under control, it continues to confront challenges which include public hesitation about the new vaccines. This study aimed to assess knowledge, attitude, practices and concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccines among patients in Sibu Hospital. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted using a questionnaire, self-administered by the patients and caregivers who visited Outpatient, Inpatient or Drive Through Pharmacy, Sibu Hospital during office hours from December 2021 to January 2022. Data were collected using convenient sampling method and analysed using simple descriptive analyses. **Results:** 465 participants who completed the survey were included in the final analysis. 53.0%, 45.9% and 61.8% of participants understood that pregnant ladies, lactating mothers and chronic diseases patients were eligible to be vaccinated respectively. Perception regarding COVID-19 vaccination was mostly influenced by social media platforms (45.9%) and healthcare providers (40.8%). Participants felt motivated to receive COVID-19 vaccine as it was available for free (89.0%). More than half (61.3%) were concerned about COVID-19 vaccine as it was rapidly developed and approved. COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer was the most preferred choice (57.5%) followed by Sinovac (36.5%). **Conclusion:** This study provided insights on different drivers and barriers of the population from Sibu Hospital towards COVID-19 vaccination. Multifaceted approaches to empower the public to reduce the knowledge, attitude, practices and concerns gaps on COVID-19 vaccination are needed to get the pandemic under control.