



FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PARENTAL REFUSAL OF PANDEMIC INFLUENZA A/H1N1 VACCINE IN TURKEY

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Brief history....



27 April, 2009

The first confirmed case of influenza A/H1N1.



15 May, 2009

The first confirmed case in Turkey.



11 June, 2009

WHO declared influenza A/H1N1 pandemic.



15 November, 2009

Vaccines became available in Turkey.

Brief history.....

Pros and cons of the vaccine started to be discussed.

- Media
- Politicians
- People dealing with alternative medicine

- MoH
- Academics

Brief history.....

Original contract → 44 million doses

Reality



3 million doses



656 deaths

Aim of the study

- Investigate the parents' attitudes towards pandemic H1N1 vaccine,
- Identify the possible factors associated with its uptake.

Participants and Method

HOW :

TO WHOM :

WHERE :

WHEN :

Participants and Method

QUESTIONNAIRE

- **Included 16 items:**
 - Parents' decision on whether or not to vaccinate their child,
 - Demographics,
 - Parental perception of the severity of the pandemic,

Participants and Method

QUESTIONNAIRE (cont'd)

- **Included 16 items:**
 - Presence of anyone in their environment who suffered from pandemic influenza,
 - Factors that influenced them during decision making process,
 - Possible factors that might have influenced the opponents of their decision.

Participants and Method

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

- Continuous variables : Mean \pm SD
- Categorical variables : %
- Chi-square, logistic regression
- Significance : $p < 0.05$

Results

611 enrolled

226 accepted vacc. (37%)

385 refused vacc. (63%)

♂
304

♀
307

- Mean age :
21.95±15.49 mos
- Median: 18 mos

Results

Demographic factors associated with vaccine refusal

- Being a girl : **x 1.5**
- Not having a relative affected by the disease : **x 1.6**
- Age < 36 mos. : **x 1.8**
- Parental education span < 12 yrs. : **x 2.0**
- Not having a health worker relative : **x 2.1**

Results

Social factors associated with vaccine refusal

- Affected from the relatives : **x 3.8**
- Affected from the politicians : **x 4.9**
- Affected from media : **x 5**
- Thinks pandemic is exaggerated : **x 9.4**
- Thinks measures other than vaccination are more effective for prevention : **x 15.6**

Results

Parental reasons for accepting the vaccine

FACTOR	Perceived effect		
	+	+/-	-
Recommendation of the child's physician	77	13	10
Own belief about the pandemic's severity	77	12	11
Own belief about the effectiveness of vaccine	33	45	22

Results

Parental reasons for refusing the vaccine

FACTOR	Perceived effect		
	+	+/-	-
Concerns about safety	83	12	5
Own belief about the severity of pandemic/dis.	34	39	27
Trusting on measures other than the vaccine	27	51	22

Results

Perceptions of parents who approved the vaccine about the ones who rejected it

<i>They are ...</i>	%
Afraid of adverse effects	38
Effectuated by the news/media/politicians	31
Not well informed about the vaccine	18

Results

Perceptions of parents who rejected the vaccine about the ones who accepted it

<i>They ...</i>	%
Wrongly believe that vaccination is the best way of protection	34
Exaggerate the pandemic	21
Are not well informed about the vaccine	20

Conclusion

- Concern about vaccine safety is the most important risk factor for low vaccine acceptance.

Conclusion

- We need to inform parents on why vaccines are more effective in providing specific protection against certain diseases.

THANK YOU