

Beliefs Concerning the COVID-19 Vaccine in an Inner-City Dialysis Population

INTRO

Dialysis patients(pts) often have multiple co-morbid conditions that put them at risk for complications of COVID-19. Studying dialysis pts' beliefs concerning a potential COVID-19 vaccine is critical in developing a successful vaccination program.

METHODS

A telephone survey was conducted in a random sample of 20 dialysis pts including questions about vaccination history, attitudes toward vaccines, and whether they would receive a COVID-19 vaccine if it were available. Statistical analysis was by Pearson r unless otherwise noted.

RESULTS

Mean age was 53.6 ± 15.6 years. Mean time on dialysis was 4.9 ± 4.3 yrs. 12(63%) women and 7(37%) men with 18(95%) black and 1(5%) other. 2(11%) did not finish high school, 3(17%) completed high school, 7(39%) finished some college, and 6(33%) completed college; one pt did not report. 12(63%) pts with diabetes and 7(37%) pts without diabetes. Time on dialysis inversely correlated with being able to discuss vaccine-related concerns with one's doctor($r = -0.531, p = 0.034$). Age inversely correlated with having a faith or belief system that prevents one from getting vaccines($r = -0.498, p = 0.030$). Majority(15,79%) of pts would refuse a potential COVID-19 vaccine at present, with no statistically significant differences with respect to age, time on dialysis, gender, education or presence of diabetes. Pts were more likely to want to accept a COVID-19 vaccine if they had higher trust in information they receive about vaccines($r = 0.456, p = 0.049$). Pts were less likely to want to accept a COVID-19 vaccine if they were more concerned about vaccines being unsafe($r = -0.514, p = 0.024$) or causing serious side effects($r = -0.662, p = 0.002$).

CONCLUSION

In our population: 1.Majority of dialysis pts would refuse a COVID-19 vaccine at this time. 2.Refusal was related to concerns about vaccine safety, side effects and distrust of information received about vaccines. 3.A focused education program should be developed so that these high risk pts will agree to accept it.