

Factors Affecting Decision to Receive the COVID-19 Vaccine in Inner-City Dialysis Patients

Understanding factors that impact vaccine hesitancy in underserved populations is of paramount importance.

A random sample of 31 dialysis pts were surveyed regarding COVID-19 vaccination status, attitudes towards vaccines and perception of healthcare/government authority. Pts who received both doses, one dose, or were planning to do so were recorded as VACYES. Pts who were unsure or refused were recorded as VACNO.

Mean age was 56.1 ± 17.9 yrs, time on dialysis 6.2 ± 7.2 yrs with 58% women, 42% men, 90% identified as black. 84% received the vaccine. VACYES and VACNO were not significantly different in age, time on dialysis, sex, race, education, insurance, and diabetes. VACYES were more likely to trust information about the vaccine ($r = 0.57, p < 0.001$), feel confident about the safety and efficacy ($r = 0.75, p < 0.001$), and trust government guidelines regarding COVID-19 ($r = 0.73, p < 0.001$). Pts who believed it was okay for the government to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations ($r = 0.58, p = 0.001$) and believe we should all follow government guidelines to protect public health ($r = 0.41, p = 0.02$) were also more likely to be VACYES. VACYES believed hospitals could care for them if sick with COVID-19 ($r = 0.62, p < 0.001$), they had an active partnership with their provider ($r = 0.42, p = 0.02$) and having regular contact with their physician was the best way to avoid illness ($r = 0.38, p = 0.04$). VACNO pts were more likely to say they had less contact with medical professionals about their dialysis restrictions ($r = -0.63, p < 0.001$) and felt their provider did not listen to them ($r = -0.38, p = 0.04$).

In our pt population: 1. The majority are vaccinated against COVID-19. 2. Pts were more likely to have received the vaccine if they had trust in the government regarding COVID-19 and in the healthcare system. 3. Pts who reported more shared decision making were more likely to receive the vaccine and this should be emphasized in vaccination efforts in vulnerable populations.