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Post Vaccination Symptoms among the Beneficieries of Covid Vaccine in Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Dr V K Das[1], Ms Kaveriben Pandya[2], Mrs Bincy Mathew[3]
[1]*Director, Medical & Health Services, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.*
[2]*Associate Professor, Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Shri VinobaBhave College of Nursing, Silvassa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.*
[3]*Tutor, Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Shri VinobaBhave College of Nursing, Silvassa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.*

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ABSTRACT: BACKGROUND: Though India has launched the coronavirus vaccination drive, any data proving the vaccine's efficacy as well as post vaccination side effects has not been published in the public domain, including any results of an interim analysis. Hence, a study was undertaken to assess the post vaccination symptoms among the beneficiaries of COVID vaccine in Dadra & Nagar Haveli. METHOD: A Descriptive Survey was conducted from 01/02/2021 to 15/02/2021 using Convenient Sampling Technique. To assess post vaccination symptoms among the beneficiaries of COVID vaccine, a questionnaire was prepared on Google Form and was shared among all the health professionals who received the first dose of vaccine to willingly fill the form. Total 450 beneficiaries responded for the same. RESULT: Majority of healthcare professionals who completed the survey reported mild and short-lived post-vaccination symptoms. Fever, chills, tiredness, myalgia and headache were most commonly reported. No serious events were reported. Majority of the beneficiaries stated that the post vaccination symptoms started appearing after 8-10 hours of vaccination which affected their next day routine work. CONCLUSION: Greater awareness and anticipation of adverse effects among healthcare workers may help to spread public awareness through their own experiences of COVID Vaccination during next phase.

KEYWORDS: Post Vaccination Symptoms, COVID vaccine

I. INTRODUCTION

India has finally launched the coronavirus vaccination drive on January 16, 2021, which is seen as the biggest coronavirus vaccination programme around the globe. In the first phase, priority is given to frontline workers from various sectors such as health, education and police. In order to avoid any last-minute hassle, the GOI had issued detailed guidelines on what precautions need to be taken by those handling the vaccines. The second part of the vaccination drive is the participation of people. One way of achieving 'Herd Immunity' in the country will be if large number of people are vaccinated.

As part of the drive, two vaccines- Covishield and Covaxin – are being given to people. The indigenous vaccine's emergency authorization had resulted in heated debate over the hurried nod by the Indian Government.

The coronavirus vaccination drive was started on 16/01/2021 in Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Covishield is being given to frontline workers from various sectors such as health, education and police. The 1st dose of this vaccine has been given to around 3086 Health Care Professionals till now.

AstraZeneca's Covid 19 vaccine - AZD1222 is marketed as Covishield, developed by the University of Oxford and made in India by Serum Institute of India, Pune. It is a viral vector vaccine based on replication deficient Adenovirus (a weakened version of a common cold virus) that causes cold in chimpanzees but doesn't infect humans. It attaches to cells and injects DNA that tells them to make the coronavirus spike protein - the structures on the surface of the coronavirus, giving it that studded appearance. This catches the attention of the immune system which recognizes it as foreign and builds up a defence to attack the real coronavirus when an actual infection occurs. The advantage of this vaccine is that it is cheaper & importantly it can be stored, transported & handled at standard refrigerator temperatures.

Any data related to the vaccine's efficacy has not been published in the public domain, including any results of an interim analysis. Moreover much is not known about the real-world post-vaccination experience outside of clinical trial

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conditions. Knowledge about what to expect after vaccination will help to educate the public, dispel misinformation and reduce the vaccine hesitancy. Hence, a study was undertaken to assess the post vaccination symptoms among the beneficiaries of COVID vaccine in Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

II. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

- To assess the post vaccination symptoms among the beneficiaries of COVID vaccine in Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

III. METHODOLOGY

Research Approach- Quantitative Approach

Research Design- Descriptive Survey Design

Research Setting-The study was conducted among the beneficiaries of COVID vaccine in Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Population-All the health care professionals who have received the first dose of COVID vaccine (Covishield) and have crossed three days following vaccination.

Data Collection - Data collection for study was done from 01/02/2021 to 15/02/2021. To assess post vaccination symptoms among the beneficiaries of COVID vaccine, a questionnaire was prepared on Google Form and was shared with all the health professionals to willingly fill the form & submit.

Sample- In the present study, the samples comprised of 450 beneficiaries of COVID vaccine.

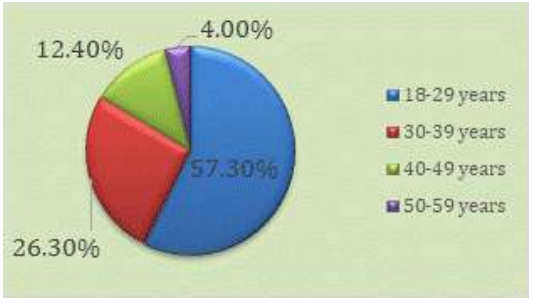
Sampling Technique- The present study adopted Non Probability- Convenient Sampling Technique.

Description of Tool: The tool consists of a self-administered questionnaire which includes demographic variables and experience related to COVID vaccination.

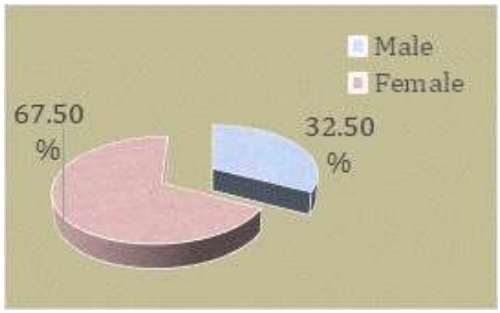
IV. RESULT

1. Age:

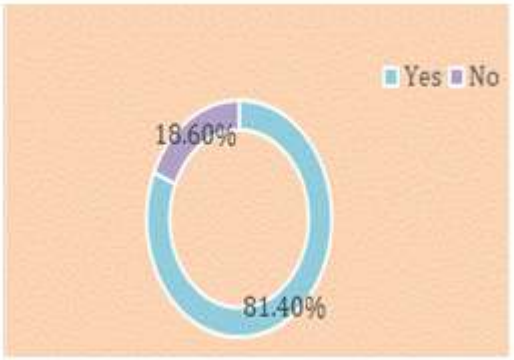
The finding of the survey shows that majority (57.30%) of the beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-29 years.



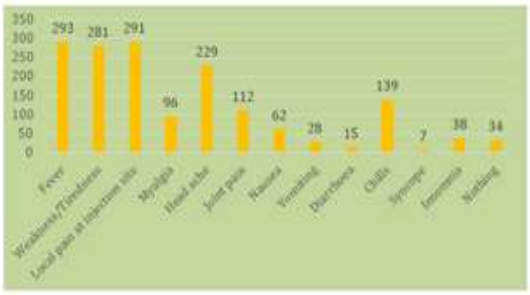
2. Gender: Majority (67.50 %) of the beneficiaries were female.



3. Number of beneficiaries who developed post vaccination symptoms: Majority(81.40 %) of the beneficiaries developed post vaccination symptoms



4. **Post vaccination symptoms:** The most common symptomsreported by the beneficiaries were fever (293/450) and pain at local site (291/450)



5. Any other symptoms than the above specified

A few samples reported about anorexia, constipation, sore throat, cough, palpitations, acidity, indigestion, hypersomnia, heaviness and numbness on injection arm, chest tightness etc. as their personal experiences after vaccination.

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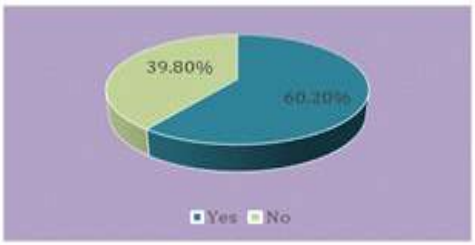
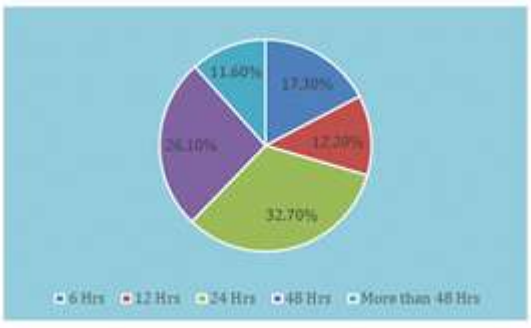
6. Effect on next day work:
60.20 % of the beneficiaries stated that the post vaccination symptoms affected their next day routine work.

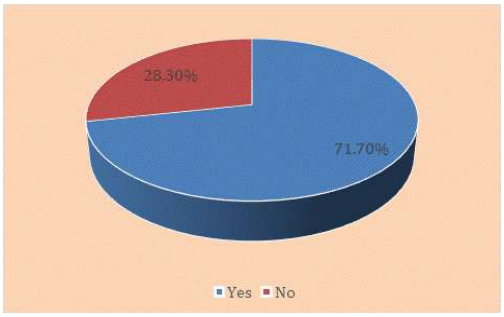


7. Onset of appearance of symptoms.
Majority (30.80 %) of the beneficiaries reported that the symptoms appeared within 8-12 hours of administration of vaccination.

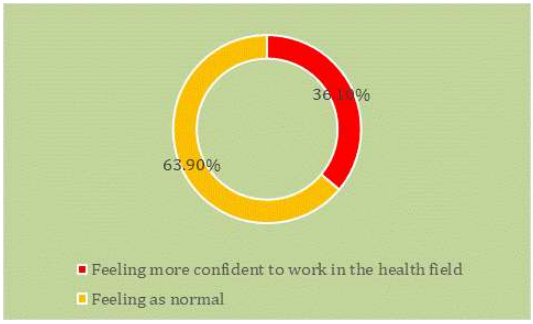
8. Duration of symptoms:
The maximum duration of the symptoms reported is 24 hours.



9. Need of any medications for symptom relief:
71.70 % samples took medications to get relief from the symptoms.



10. Psychological effect of vaccination: 63.90% of the samples stated that they are feeling more confident after COVID vaccination.



V. DISCUSSION

The findings of the study show that there is no major side effects or ill health experiences after the COVID vaccination and ensure that symptoms will be alright after 24-48 hours in maximum duration. This survey result can be a motivation for the individuals who are hesitating to take vaccine because of unknown fear.

VI. CONCLUSION

Majority of the beneficiaries of COVID vaccine in Dadra & Nagar Haveli showed mild post-vaccination symptoms. Fever, chills, tiredness, myalgia and headache were most commonly reported. No serious events were reported. The symptoms started 8-10 hours after the vaccination & were affecting next day routine activities. Even though majority of samples reported that they became more confident after COVID vaccination. Hence, now knowledge gained after this post vaccination survey will help to educate the public, dispel misinformation and reduce the vaccine hesitancy.

There were some limitations of the study. Survey questions were in English, which might have posed some difficulty among those with limited proficiency in that language. The data was collected after three days of vaccination. Hence, delayed symptoms were not reported. As the survey was

conducted on Google form, it was not possible to verify the I.D or information provided by each respondent. Therefore, survey was conducted on trust.

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