

Review of: "Acceptance of Childhood Rotavirus Vaccine Among Mothers at The Point of Rotavirus Vaccine Introduction: A case study from Awka Anambra State Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Acceptance of Childhood Rotavirus Vaccine Among Mothers at The Point of Rotavirus Vaccine Introduction: A case study from Awka Anambra State Nigeria

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. I find this a useful subject given that diarrhoea due to rotavirus is extremely common, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. The rotavirus vaccine can go a long way in helping reduce morbidity and mortality, but only if it is accepted by parents for their babies.

Generally, I find the manuscript well written, but it has a number of gaps that need to be addressed prior to publication.

Title: I am not sure why the authors have chosen to describe this as a "case study."

Abstract

1. Include when the study was done in the methods section.
2. Add a brief statement about how the analysis was done.
3. *Respondents emphasized the need for more information on the vaccine effectiveness and safety, with the medical doctor having the highest confidence in the doctor to provide information about immunization.*

Comment: The above sentence is not clear.

1. *.....vaccines (either from private.....*

Comment: Add a closing bracket.

1. Not sure why the authors did not add a conclusion.

Introduction

1. *A study conducted in Canada [10] in 2009 reported that 67% of parents accepted to give childhood vaccines, including rotavirus, to their children. In a US qualitative study [11], a lack of awareness of rotavirus diarrhoea and a need for more information about the disease and the vaccine were found as barriers to receiving the vaccine among parents.*

Parents generally deemed the vaccine to be acceptable, and most of them reported that they would rely on their health care provider's recommendation for whether their child should receive the rotavirus vaccine.

Comment: The studies you share here seem to all have been conducted in Western countries. It is possible that findings may be different in the SSA setting. It may be useful to show that there is limited data in SSA about the subject as extra justification for your study.

Methods

1. Sample size calculation:

The number of samples [217] was determined based on the formula of Lwanga et al.,.....

Comment: Rather say - The sample size was determined.....

1. *Participation was open to parents and legal guardians of newborns or young children who were willing to participate and provided informed consent,.....*

Comment: Describe clearly and in detail how these were identified and selected to take part in the information sharing session.

1. *A structured and validated questionnaire was used as a tool to collect data from participants.*

Give detail about how the tool was developed and validated. Ensure to add the tool as an appendix.

1. Indicate in the methods section how key outcomes such as knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes were measured, categorized, and scored.

Data analysis

1. *....while quantitative variables were analyzed using mean and standard deviation....*

Comment: Did you mean to say "continuous variables"?.....

1. *Tests of association between selected variables and respondents' variables were done using Pearson Chi-square or Fisher exact or as appropriate.*

Comment: I am not sure what this sentence means. In addition, you probably were testing the relationship between categorical predictor variables and the outcome. How about continuous predictor variables?

1. How were variables for the adjusted model selected?

Ethical considerations

Add a section about how confidentiality and privacy were maintained.

Results

1. Tables extremely long. Wondering if they can be presented better to fit on one page.
2. Table 3

Would be useful to include unadjusted values as well, so that the reader clearly sees which variables were included in the analysis and those selected for the final model and why.

1. *The findings demonstrated that only one factor was significantly associated with knowledge of rotavirus.*

Comment: We would consider that factors like mothers' income are also associated with knowledge, only that the association is in the other direction.

1. *On a scale of one to five with one being 'not likely at all' and five being 'most likely',*

This scale description belongs in the methods section

1. Another important piece of information from this study is the general immunization status of the index child.

Comment: Please show intention to measure such outcomes in the methods. We are otherwise seeing them for the first time in the results section.

Discussion

1. If acceptance is the main theme of your paper, then it should be the first and most important result you discuss.
2. Paragraph 1:

Please discuss the findings and critically compare your findings with those of others. Explain differences in findings where they may exist. It is not enough to just tell us that a finding is similar or different from that of others.

Discuss one finding at a time and avoid the temptation to just re-present results here.

1. *In areas where knowledge of the virus.....*

Comment: Spelling of areas

1. *.....thereby resulting in better health for their child(ren).*

Comment: Correct grammar

1. *Regarding socioeconomic factors associated with willingness to accept the rotavirus vaccine, being married ($p=0.001$), having education ($p=0.001$), having employment ($p=0.001$), and socio-economic status ($p=0.049$) were significantly related to accepting the vaccine because it is safe.*

Comment: In your discussion, try to explain why these factors may show this relationship

1. *Though the majority of respondents (91.2%) agreed that they are willing to accept the vaccine for their children*

because it is safe, 8 (3.7%) considered the newly introduced vaccine dangerous to their children, and the majority (87.5%) of these said they would not be willing to accept the vaccine due to concerns related to safety, while the remainder 12.5% expressed strong desires to get more information about the vaccine considering safety based on what was said in their community about COVID-19 vaccines.

Comment: Very long sentence

Study limitations

Comments:

- a. Consider the issue of desirability bias deriving from self-reports.
- b. Could the non-inclusion of men be a limitation? We know that the opinion of men may affect the acceptability of the vaccine.

Also, good practice to add some strengths of your study.