



A Qualitative Assessment of COVID 19 AstraZeneca Vaccine Second Dose Hesitancy

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Purpose

Vaccination of the healthcare workforce against COVID 19 is a **key strategy** in preventing the acquisition and transmission of COVID 19 infection⁴.

In March 2021, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital initiated a staff vaccination program utilising the COVID 19 AstraZeneca vaccine. This program faced challenges due to increased adverse events being reported, resulting in potential second dose vaccine hesitancy.

Method

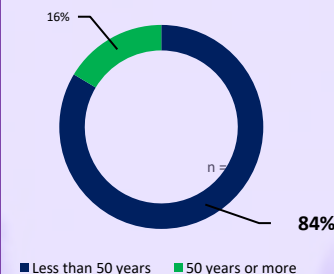
- Survey of three short questions was circulated to staff within RBWH Pharmacy Department to gauge the opinions towards the vaccine and likelihood of uptake of second dose Astra Zeneca
- After four weeks this survey was closed and results and comments collated
- Using the main themes identified from the survey, targeted information was circulated to all pharmacy staff
- A second survey was developed to establish if the education provided was relevant and helpful in reducing COVID 19 vaccine hesitancy amongst a small cohort of healthcare workers

Results

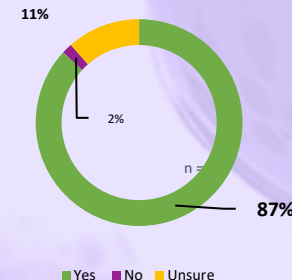
Initial survey

- Achieved 62% return rate (n=61)
- 84% of staff were less than 50 years old
- 87% were planning to receive their second dose of Astra Zeneca vaccine
- The main theme from the comments received was hesitancy related to side effects, in particular blood clots

Age of Participants



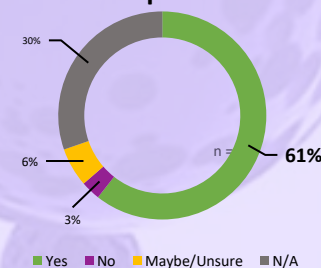
Planning 2nd Dose?



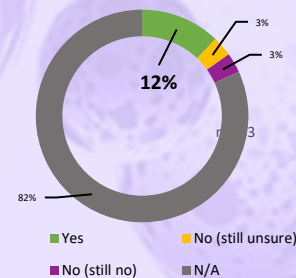
Follow up survey

- Only reached return rate of 33.33% (n=33)
- 61% of staff found the information provided in the targeted education to be helpful
- 12% of staff that had previously been unsure or responded no, would now feel comfortable proceeding with second dose vaccination

Was the information helpful?



Has the targeted education changed your mind?



Conclusions

- Vaccination is important in preventing the acquisition and transmission of COVID 19
- The overwhelming response was that staff were planning to receive their second dose
- Vaccine hesitancy is present amongst some staff

The provision of targeted education may help to reduce vaccine hesitancy and support staff to make informed choices about vaccination.

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Reference/Acknowledgements

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4. Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Health. About the AstraZeneca Covid-19 Vaccine [Internet]. Australia [2021 May; cited 2021 May 27]. Available from: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/learn-about-covid-19-vaccines/about-the-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>
5. Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Health. After your COVID-19 Vaccination AstraZeneca Vaccination [Internet]. Australia [updated 2021 May; cited 2021 May 27]. Available from: <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/04/covid-19-vaccination-after-your-astrazeneca-vaccine-covid-19-vaccination-after-your-astrazeneca-vaccine.pdf>