

Misconceptions Associated with COVID-19 Vaccinations

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Coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) was declared as a pandemic by World Health Organization (WHO) in July, 2020. Currently there are more than 100 million COVID-19 cases worldwide. Researchers throughout the World are working in harmony for finding appropriate treatment for the viral disease. Considerable progress was made as evident from the large number of vaccines that were produced and approved by WHO. Countries have been working tirelessly in administering these vaccines to their citizens and reducing their mortality rate. Despite large numbers of efforts, advertisements, compensation and motivation, people have developed several misconceptions associated with COVID-19 vaccination.

The most common misconception is that the vaccine is unsafe due to its production in a relatively short duration of time. Though the time taken for vaccine production was short, the necessary safety check and effectiveness of vaccine was duly evaluated and confirmed by different health organizations. People believe that this vaccine has the ability to alter the genetic structure. The complex biological system including strong immune system allows the body to identify the messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) of the virus and produce antibodies against it. These antibodies in turn provide immunity to the person.

Several videos were circulating that described the presence of tracking device in COVID-19 vaccine. Though there was a chip present in the syringe produced by Apject Systems of America, this chip was merely used for identifying the type of vaccine that was going to be administered to the person. This chip itself was not administered to the person. Another myth was that the vaccine was producing severe allergic reaction to persons and was even lethal. Allergic reactions are common during any type of vaccines. These are not specifically produced due to COVID-19 vaccination. The incidence of COVID-19 vaccine induced allergies was relatively low and the myth was considered overhyped.

A serious myth regarding COVID-19 vaccination was that it may induce infertility among both males and females. This was a baseless myth as the spike protein of the COVID-19 virus has no association with any of the proteins or hormones associated with fertility of the person. Individuals who were earlier diagnosed positive for the vaccine were reluctant to administer this vaccine. But the number of these individuals who getting this vaccine started swelling swiftly due to government promotions highlighting advantages of the vaccine and its ability to induce antibodies for longer duration.

It is necessary for the governments to realize that majority of the citizens are either uneducated regarding the healthcare services or they tend to follow others. The different social groups have created further hindrance in administering COVID-19 vaccines. It is therefore important to have a regular check on the social trends or messages and stop its spread immediately. Different promotional activities, compensations, or strict action including fines must be imposed for ensuring maximum administration of COVID-19 vaccines. Only through widespread vaccination we can ensure that the outbreak of this disease could be halted permanently.

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