

# Determinants of Non-Acceptance of the COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy in Pregnant and Postpartum Women: Correspondence

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## Dear Editor

We would like to comment on “Determinants of Non-Acceptance of the COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy in Pregnant and Postpartum Women: A Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study (1).” Researchers in Yazd, Iran examined the causes for pregnant and postpartum women's refusal of the COVID-19 vaccination in this study. A validated questionnaire was used to collect data over the phone from the 304 participants in the study. The participants' mean age was 28.31 years, and the most frequent excuses given for refusing the vaccine were lack of information, unfavorable social influences, doubt about the disease and its vaccine, fear of the mother's adverse effects, and possible harm to the fetus. Remarkably, a sizable percentage of individuals who did not obtain a booster dose stated that medical professionals had not given them any advice or instruction on how to administer a booster dose.

This study's dependence on self-reported data from phone interviews, which is prone to recall bias, is one of its possible weak points. Furthermore, the study did not investigate the precise sources of false information or unfavorable views that affected individuals' choices to decline the vaccination. In-depth interviews or focus group discussions could be useful in future study to better understand the underlying causes of vaccine reluctance in this

population's pregnant and postpartum mothers. Gaining insight into the subtleties of these attitudes and worries could help develop focused interventions aimed at clearing up misunderstandings and enhancing vaccination acceptance.

How healthcare professionals may address pregnant and postpartum women's misunderstanding and anxieties regarding the COVID-19 immunization through improved communication is one of the study's main unanswered questions. Creating specialized teaching materials and counseling techniques that address common worries, like vaccine safety for the mother and fetus, may aid in boosting vaccination rates in this susceptible group. Additionally, in order to guarantee complete vaccination coverage and safeguard the health of the mother and fetus, it is crucial to investigate how gynecologists, healthcare professionals, and public health messages can support vaccine trust among pregnant and postpartum women.

Regarding future directions, it would be beneficial to assess how specific interventions, including patient education initiatives and communication plans, affect pregnant and postpartum women's acceptance of vaccines. Studies with a longitudinal design may monitor shifts in attitudes and vaccination-related behaviors over time, offering important information about how well different strategies work. In order to combat vaccination hesitancy in pregnant and postpartum populations and ensure universal protection against COVID-19, collaboration between

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healthcare professionals, public health authorities, and community partners is necessary.

### **Conflict of Interests**

Authors have no conflict of interests.

### **References**

1. Dehshiri M, Mansouri M, Jarahzadeh MH, Hatamizadeh N. Determinants of Non-Acceptance of

the COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy in Pregnant and Postpartum Women: A Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study. *J Family Reprod Health*. 2024 Mar;18(1):67-74.

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