

P2160 **Toward a new vaccinating corps: attitudes and perception concerning vaccination in 905 French midwives**

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**Background:** Midwives have been recently habilitated in France to perform various vaccines to women (including pregnant women), newborns, and the entourages of a pregnant woman. This is expected to enhance the vaccine coverage, including in populations reluctant to consult a general practitioner. However, the high level of vaccine defiance in France is also encountered in some healthcare workers. We aimed to determine the perceptions of French midwives concerning vaccines.

**Materials/methods:** We diffused by various means an online anonymous questionnaire targeting midwives, either still in formation or working in public or private structures, between September and November 2017.

**Results:** 905 questionnaires were analyzed (age 31.0±11 years). 44.5% participants were students; the others had received their diploma 15.0±11 years before. On a scale 0-100, the perception of the usefulness, safety and trust concerning vaccination were respectively 88.3±15, 74.4±20, and 80.1±19. Student mean level was significantly higher for each perception ( $p<0.001$ ); moreover, in the graduated midwives, age and each perception were negatively correlated ( $p<0.05$  for usefulness, and  $<0.0001$  for safety and trust). 83.2%, 69.5% and 77.9% disagreed when asked if there were scientific, philosophical or religious arguments, respectively, not to vaccinate. They were really/mostly favorable to the anti-pertussis vaccine after delivery for 88.5%, and to the anti-influenza vaccine during pregnancy for 51.4%; graduated midwives less than 30 years old were more frequently favorable to anti-pertussis vaccine than older graduated midwives (94.3% vs 80.2%,  $p=0.001$ ). A high proportion (88.3%) considered that midwives were well positioned to vaccinate (this proportion was even higher in students, 94.5% vs 83.4%,  $p<0.0001$ ); their perceptions of the vaccine (usefulness, safety and trust) were significantly higher ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusions:** These results suggest that the recent habilitation of midwives concerning vaccination will result in a better vaccine coverage of pregnant women and their entourages. The more positive perceptions of younger participants is encouraging. However, the level of trust in the vaccination (only 80.1%), the high proportion not vaccinated against influenza, and the low level favorable to anti-influenza vaccine during pregnancy suggest that initial and continuous training should be reinforced in this field.