KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES ABOUT THE INFLUENZA VACCINATION AMONG HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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INTRODUCTION

• Influenza is one of the most common respiratory diseases, annually causing over one million deaths. It is a mild disease for young and healthy persons, however if affecting those with a weakened immune system it can lead to complications and even to death.
• The only effective preventive measure is vaccination recommended for certain categories of the population.
• Health care workers (HCW) are important category for influenza vaccination because their contact with patients puts them at risk to develop disease.
• HCW can easily spread the disease especially to vulnerable groups of patients to whom the influenza may cause worsening of the underlying disease and even the death.
• The absenteeism of HCWs due to the influenza has a negative impact on the functioning of the health system.
• HCWs can also transmit the disease to their family members.

AIM OF STUDY

• To determine the vaccination status against influenza among HCWs.
• To find out the reasons for and against vaccination.

RESULTS

• female : male = 73% : 27%
• 39% are in the age group 36-45 years
• 14% have some chronic disease
• 25% are living with someone with a chronic disease
• 24% are living with someone over 65 years of age
• 66% have a children
• 76% are not vaccinated against influenza last year

CONCLUSION

• Health care workers in Bosnia and Herzegovina don’t pay enough attention at influenza vaccination.
• Improving knowledge about influenza and influenza vaccination must be first step for the better immunization coverage.