

The Great Vaccine Rush

CHRONICLE PHARMACY
January 27, 2022

Covid-19 vaccination in India: Challenges and benefits

Dr Sanjay Agrawal

WITH the implication of the third wave that has already hit India, many cases are being noticed. Vaccination not only acts as a booster, but also helps save lives. Even as the coronavirus pandemic continues to unfold, billions of people are waiting to receive the first dose itself.

To meet the need of the UNICEF, the leading global distributor of the lifesaving Covid-19 vaccines, are the key delivery partner for the ground-breaking partnership between the World Health Organisation, Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization, coalition for the epidemic preparedness innovations to address the multi-facet range of the pandemic. Taking the vaccine controls 75 per cent of the Covid as per reports.

There are strains of coronavirus that have already started to create a more substantial impact. The constraints to the vaccine adoption leverage an insightful input on the program to help the UNICEF equip its critical partners for information and tools. It will build the public confidence in both the routine of the Covid-19 to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

As per the top consultant of

an efficacy of 91 per cent.

Covishield and Covaxin, the two currently licensed vaccines, are safe and productive. While Covishield has been determined to have nearly 70-90 per cent efficacy, Covaxin has an effectiveness of 81 per cent, which indicates that out of 100 patients who receive the vaccine, 70-90 per cent will not develop asymptomatic Covid disease, according to the doctor.

Because the current outbreak is caused mainly by modified Covid virus strains, the earlier infection may not effectively protect against the current strain. This is the reason why it is recommended that we should get vaccinated.

Main advantages

Getting vaccinated can reduce the likelihood of hospitalization and the need for oxygen supplementation and increase the odds of recovery at home. It has been claimed that persons who have been vaccinated have a lower risk of developing symptomatic Covid infection. The data should always be analysed for statistical significance.

Assists in breaking the transmission chain

A vaccinated person may produce antibodies that neutral-



After getting vaccinated, the doctor offers some simple advice on enhancing your immunity. "To keep yourself hydrated, drink plenty of lukewarm water throughout the day." Make it a point to do at least 30 minutes of yoga, pranayama, and meditation every day. Pranayama can help us expand our lung capacity.

Avoid consuming junk food and go for light, easily digestible, and healthy meals. Get at least 7-8 hours of sleep each night.

Above all, keep your hygiene in check. When going out, wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and

visshield doses and 10 million Covaxin doses every month. The production rate is insufficient to cover India's large population; as a result, manufacturers have committed to producing 100 and 80 million quantities each month in the following months, respectively. By August-September 2021, Indian Immunological will offer 10-15 million doses of Covaxin per month. To accomplish widespread immunization swiftly, the country should consider imports in addition to domestic production.

The Covid-19 Trends and Impact Survey revealed that India has one of the highest rates of vaccine acceptance in the world, with over 77 per cent of respondents expressing that they would prefer to take the vaccine at the time of analysis. While side effects are often the main reason for hesitancy, the top factor contributing to reluctance in India was people's desire to "wait and see if the Covid-19 vaccine is safe and receive it later," as shown by 45 per cent of respondents who have said they did not need the Covid-19 vaccine.

"I think other people need it more than I do right now," said 37 per cent of respondents, which was the second most prevalent reason for not wanting the vaccine.

A qualitative analysis of public posts in India about the Covid-19 vaccine generally revealed positive feelings, with many posts expressing national pride that India had developed its

vaccine and provided it to other countries.

Underlines of social cohesiveness and strong national momentum to vaccinate were present in the messages. Many users also shared personal vaccination stories, encouraged others to get vaccinated, and expressed gratitude for health care providers.

According to public posts about the vaccine, many people had worries about the vaccination's availability, potential adverse effects, and when/how they would be eligible for their first dosage. Vaccine apprehension is a common problem in India, fuelled by misinformation and mistrust, particularly in rural areas, which account for 65 per cent of the population.

Finally, the Indian government must develop efficient public health measures for mass immunization and avoid crowding people into healthcare facilities for vaccination. Many states have implemented door-to-door super spreading and aid in the nation's mass vaccination efforts. Village-level awareness programs should address vaccine apprehension.

In light of the new SARS-CoV-2 variations, the government should maintain a high vaccination rate and coverage with a double dose of Covid-19 vaccine and shorter intervals between doses to attain high efficacy rates across India's whole population.

(The author is pharmaceutical consultant)



infectious diseases at the Maripal Dwarika, New Delhi, it is commented that "In India, the two vaccines approved are Covishield and Covaxin. The Sputnik V vaccine is also launched. The Russian two-dose vaccine is given every three weeks, having

ize the virus and interrupt the transmission chain. Herd immunity develops once a sufficient population has been vaccinated and has circulating antibodies for the disease. After two doses of vaccination, vaccinated persons may recover more quickly.

water, practice social distancing, and use homemade masks/ double masks.

The Covid-19 Trends and Impact Survey

Until May 2021, India produced around 70 million Co-

CONTINUED FROM P.5

Asserting that targeted vaccination is the way forward for a resource poor country like India there are vaccine junks who view that there is no good evidence to demonstrate that such a vaccinated prioritization will substantially reduce the spread of the outbreaks.

Need for booster shots

Following the concerns that the population across the world continues to remain unprotected with their vaccination, booster shots are increasingly being recommended. It was reported that in November 2021, the US FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that all adults

aged 18 or older are eligible for a booster shot six months after completing their first and second vaccinations.

From PfizerBioNet, Moderna to Johnson & Johnson to Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech are now proving the efficacy of these booster doses. In India it is recommended that people need to take the same vaccine of the

first and second dose and not look at mixing doses.

Bane of vaccine hesitancy

The World Health Organization (WHO) has listed vaccine hesitancy as one of the biggest threats to global health. The delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccine services is a big con-

cern. Medical experts see that even though there is corona virus disease vaccinated infection through, despite hospitalization, admissions into intensive care units are nil. Even Omicron variant is not a threat to human health going by its milder symptoms. But vaccine hesitancy could prolong the pandemic.

Vaccine hesitancy, a big threat to global health