

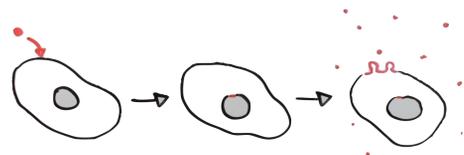


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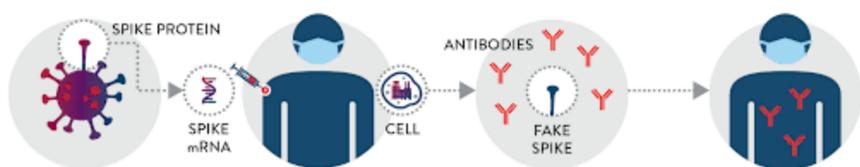
INTRODUCTION

Vaccinating HIV positive patients offers a great deal of benefit not only for the patients receiving ART therapies, but we also anticipate this benefiting the general population as well. Increasing the vaccination rate among HIV positive patients will help increase herd immunity among the rest of the population. Studies conducted by BioNTech-Pfizer and Moderna, the world leading companies manufacturing vaccines against the COVID-19 virus, showed that their COVID-19 vaccines have a 100% efficacy in preventing severe COVID-19 cases and death, as well as over 90% efficacy in preventing COVID-19 cases with less severe symptoms. prior research has highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on HIV prevention services in the United States, but few studies have looked at this impact from a qualitative, exploratory perspective. While data on the precise effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on HIV-positive people is limited, some research suggest that discrimination and psychological distress are widespread and higher than in community samples. With restricted access to HIV testing, linkage to prevention and care services, and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis start, COVID-19 public health interventions could pose a substantial challenge for the HIV prevention and treatment. Continuums. These results, together with the fear of infection and its consequences, could have a substantial impact on their mental and emotional well-being.



OBJECTIVES

- Broaden the understanding of potential side effects associated with COVID-19 vaccination in immunocompromised patients (HIV-positive).
- Contribute in the development of educational materials targeted at raising immunization rates in this community.
- Investigate the impact of COVID-19 vaccination on a population of Hispanics living with HIV, as well as the relationship between socioeconomic factors, HIV risky behaviors, and interruptions in the HIV care continuum.



DESIGN

Secondary de-identified data obtained through a questionnaire administered by the Universidad Central del Caribe (UCC) Retrovirus Center will be used to assess adverse effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in 36 HIV-positive adults who completed the COVID-19 module integrated to the RRC questionnaire by December 2021. The Retrovirus Research Center is an UCC Internal Review Board-approved project (IRB). The information gathered by the UCC Retrovirus Center will be utilized to evaluate HIV patients' responsiveness to the COVID-19 vaccine's side effects. In STATA 14.0 statistical analysis, the data from the RRC will be used. We'll use descriptive statistical analysis (frequency, percentages, means, and standard deviations) as well as first-order analysis to examine bivariate relationships between primary grievances and potential modifiers (chi-square tests). All statistical tests with a p-value less than .05 will be considered meaningful at a 95 percent confidence interval.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Gender, age, COVID-19 infection comorbidities, COVID-19 treatments and outcomes, clinical background, COVID-19 vaccination status and post-vaccine adverse effects, HIV-associated risky behaviors (unprotected anal, vaginal, and/or oral sex with multiple partners; needle sharing), and AIDS status are the variables of interest to be evaluated through this secondary data. Previous research shows that the COVID-19 vaccine does not interfere with HIV medications and no evidence exists that the vaccine causes an increase in side effects in patients with HIV compared to the general population. Therefore, a side effect profile in adults with HIV similar to that of the general population is expected. However, few studies have looked at the pandemic's impact on quality of life and health access in the HIV-positive population, as well as HIV prevention services in the U.S.A. For this reason, we expect to see a reduction in access to medications or medical appointments, which may contribute to poor treatment adherence and vaccine access.

CONCLUSION

Understanding the variety of potential side effects following Covid-19 vaccination in HIV-positive patients can contribute to developing a valuable knowledge base that will allow health professionals to educate and improve receptivity to vaccination in HIV-positive patients to increase vaccination in this community. Also, this study will be adding valuable qualitative data results as to how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted HIV prevention services in the United States. To this end, we expect to collect data that may be used in future research to help mitigate misinformation related to the Covid -19 vaccine.

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