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In-Person Vaccine Education and Parental Vaccine Acceptance

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In-Person Vaccination Education Leads to Improved Parental Vaccination Acceptance

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Introduction

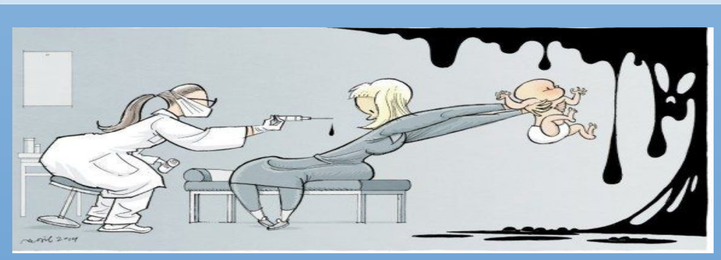
Vaccine hesitancy is the refusal or reluctance to get an immunization for oneself or for their children. Vaccinations play an integral role in strengthening a child's immune system. Understanding the reasons behind vaccination hesitancy in parents plays a critical role in community health, preventing vaccine preventable diseases, and increasing vaccination rates. Several challenges have been identified in parental vaccine hesitancy: sociodemographic factors, lack of trust in the vaccine making process, and personal beliefs such as political leaders. Factors leading to acceptance of vaccination includes education and trust in health care professionals. It is crucial to determine how different vaccination promotion and education methods can be used to increase vaccine acceptance in parents as they play an integral role in their child's health and well-being. Determining and combating the factors that influence parental vaccine hesitancy can reduce child illness and mortality from non-vaccination.

Hypothesis

In-person education by healthcare professionals will improve parental beliefs and attitudes regarding vaccinating their children.

Method

- **Design:** Quantitative
- **Participants:** 500
- **Recruitment:** Parents accompanying their children to doctor visits at pediatric offices across 5 states (Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Southern Illinois)
- **Procedure:**
  - 1) Pre-assessment survey: examining vaccine information sources, beliefs, and parental intentions
  - 2) Provide in-person parental education on vaccines: side effects, importance, and disease prevention
  - 3) Post-education survey: assessing changes in parental views on vaccines and confidence in vaccination
  - 4) Follow-up survey: evaluating parental beliefs, safety, efficacy, and vaccination intentions
  - 5) Analysis of comparative t-tests to draw conclusions



Results

Comparative analysis will be utilized to examine the effectiveness of this study. It will employ paired t-tests of attitudes and beliefs before and after vaccination education. It will compare the pre-assessment survey with post-assessment survey and post-assessment survey with the follow up survey. Comparative paired t-tests are preferred as they reveal statistically significant changes in parental attitudes on vaccinations after education.

IRB

This proposal will seek IRB approval

Conclusion

In-person education is shown to have positive effects on the attitude and beliefs of vaccine hesitant parents. The use of education results in increased understanding and trust in vaccine safety and delivery resulting in less parental vaccine hesitancy. However, further research is needed to examine the impact novel interventions have in reducing parental vaccine hesitancy and improving vaccine rates in children.

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