



## Evaluation of Adverse Events following Covid -19 Vaccination (Vaccine Vigilance) among the Health Care Professionals – A Multicentred Questionnaire Based Study

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### Abstract

**Background:** The COVID-19 pandemic has crippled down human health in alarming ratios globally including all the developed and developing countries as a whole. The pandemic situation has pushed the entire health care system in many countries to critical and most challenging testimony. The virus has claimed the lives of 3,884,890 people, with still 179,393,174 confirmed live cases among 220 countries as of June 2021<sup>(1)</sup>. The main aim of this study is to assess the adverse events on administration of vaccines among healthcare professionals and their approach towards vaccination<sup>(2)</sup>.

**Methods:** A retrospective study conducted among the healthcare workers from June 2021 to August 2021 to analyze and introspect the AEFI post Covid 19 vaccination in Tamil Nadu, India. The local and systemic side effects post both the 1st and 2nd dose of Covid19 vaccination was collected through questionnaire.

**Results:** A total of 700 potential health care workers were approached, out of which 661 participated and provided value insights regarding the side effects of vaccination. The most common side effect reported were the fever, head ache, body pain and pain at the site of injection. Young population, majorly involving the females, were affected than the older population. All the reported side effects were mild to moderate in nature without requiring any hospitalization

**Conclusion:** The adverse events post Covid19 vaccination are tolerable and manageable while they can be mitigated with simple home remedies and administration of paracetamol.

**Keywords:** Adverse events, vaccination, Covid 19 pandemic, immunization, vaccine vigilance

### Introduction

The novel Coronavirus has been reported in more than 120 countries and has claimed more than 2 million lives as of March 2021. Globally, there have been about 430 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6 million deaths, reported to WHO.<sup>(8)</sup>

The development of vaccines has greatly proven to knock down the disease load and curb the spread in large numbers. Several updates have been reviewed including General recommendations on

immunization, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)<sup>(5)</sup>.

However, the vaccine administration was associated with some unfavorable side effects which greatly impacted the motivation for administration among people.

The WHO has proposed the following definition, adverse event following immunization (AEFI) is any untoward unfavorable unintended medical occurrence

which follows immunization and does not have a causal relationship with usage of vaccine.

Vaccine pharmacovigilance is defined as the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding, prevention and communication of AEFI or of any other vaccine or immunization related issues.<sup>(6)</sup>

The main aim of initiating pharmacovigilance was to ensure the safety of people taking the vaccine and promote safer administration practices of vaccines. As a consequence, the AEFI surveillance guidelines have been initiated and updated by many countries periodically.

### INDIAN SCENARIO

India being the global hub for vaccine production and exports, run a explicit and intricate surveillance system to monitor the AEFI. And also taking into consideration that India runs one of the largest and widely covered immunization programs, the above becomes inevitable.

The AEFI surveillance program was initiated by the government of India in the year 1986 which was subjected to numerous revisions, the last being in 2015.<sup>(7)</sup>

The guidelines updated in 2015 has classified AEFI into 3 main classes:

1. Common minor AEFI including local reactions, fever and systemic symptoms
2. Serious AEFI those which result in hospitalization, death or significant disability
3. Severe AEFI these which are not minor but do not result in disability or death and do not require hospitalization

The intensive tracking documenting and reporting of AEFI is carried out by a team of stakeholders including:

1. Peripheral health workers
2. Peripheral medical officers

3. Private practices
4. DIO - District Immunization Officers
5. State Immunization Officers
6. Role of AEFI secretariat
7. Role of national AEFI committee
8. Role of marketing authorization holder

### AIM OF STUDY

To evaluate the adverse events following Covid 19 vaccination (vaccine vigilance) among the health care workers- a multicenter questionnaire based study.

### OBJECTIVE

To analyze the type of adverse events, onset and duration of post vaccination and the various methods of management adopted to overcome the same.

### METHODOLOGY

**Study Design:** Cross sectional study

**Study Area:** Government and private medical colleges and hospitals including the nurses and paramedical staffs.

**Study Population:** Health care professionals including doctors, nurses, paramedical staffs and medical students

**Inclusion Criteria:** Health care professionals who are above 18 years of age and willing to participate and have given the consent.

**Exclusion Criteria:** Health care professionals who are not willing to participate or give consent.

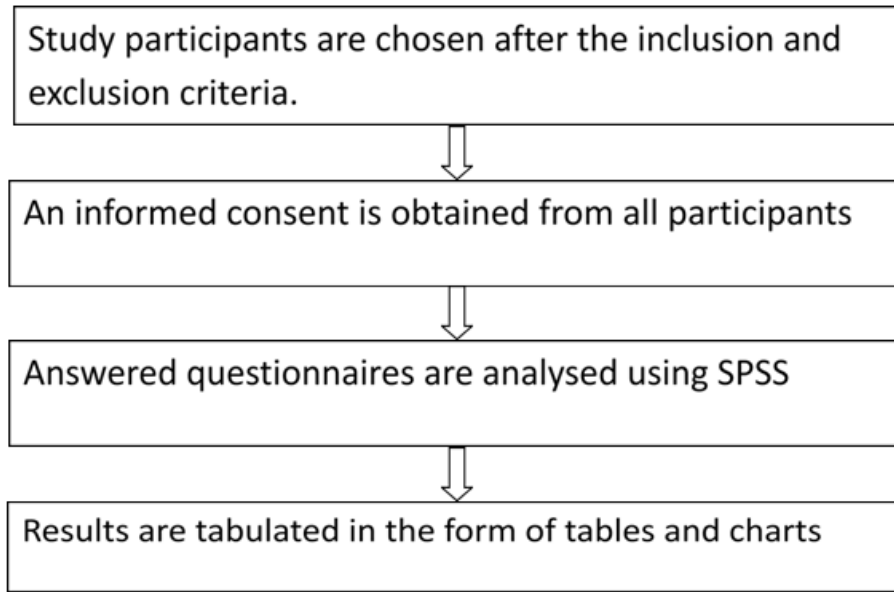
**Sampling Technique:** Convenient sampling

**Sample Size:** 661

**Data Collection Methods:** Questionnaire through Google forms in 21 days

**Duration of Study:** 6 months from the date of approval from IEC (August 2021 to February 2022)

**DATA ANALYSIS PROCEDURE:**



**RESULTS**

A study on the effect of COVID vaccination and its impact on the medical industry was examined. A questionnaire was developed for the purpose of study and was circulated among various personnel in the field of medical sciences. The population for investigation comprised medical students, doctors, paramedical and allied industries in state of Tamil Nadu, India.

The questionnaire is circulated using email, WhatsApp and other social media. The response from the target group was collected for a period of 1 month. As many as 700 potential participants were

approached out of which 661 participated and provided valuable information for the study, the following are the results of the analysis.

A total of 437 females and 224 males of different age groups had contributed for the study.

At the time of analysis, out of 661 participants, 622 had taken the first dose accounting to a 94.7% success rate of the vaccination program.

The information collected for the questionnaire were tabulated to conclude on the findings of the survey.

**Table1. Details of the participants**

| <i>Occupation</i> | <i>Sex</i> | 18 to 25 | 26 to 35 | 36 to 50 | 51 to 65 | 65 and above | Total  |
|-------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|--------|
| Doctor            | Female     | 1.98%    | 5.18%    | 3.04%    | 2.89%    | 0.30%        | 13.39% |
|                   | Male       | 1.22%    | 2.74%    | 2.44%    | 2.59%    | 0.15%        | 9.13%  |
| Total             |            | 3.20%    | 7.91%    | 5.48%    | 5.48%    | 0.46%        | 22.53% |
| Medical student   | Female     | 42.62%   | 0.15%    |          |          |              | 42.77% |
|                   | Male       | 22.37%   |          |          |          |              | 22.37% |
| Total             |            | 64.99%   | 0.15%    |          |          |              | 65.14% |

|                   |        |       |       |       |       |  |       |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|
| Paramedical staff | Female | 3.20% | 0.46% | 0.15% |       |  | 3.81% |
|                   | Male   | 0.46% |       |       |       |  | 0.46% |
| Total             |        | 3.65% | 0.46% | 0.30% |       |  | 4.41% |
| Paramedics        | Female | 3.81% | 0.76% | 1.52% | 0.15% |  | 6.24% |
|                   | Male   | 0.76% | 0.46% | 0.15% | 0.30% |  | 1.67% |
| Total             |        | 4.57% | 1.22% | 1.67% | 0.46% |  | 7.91% |

From table 1, it is inferred that a good population of medical students in the age of 18 to 25 have actively participated in the survey. Among the overall student population, 42.62% were female medical students and 23.37% were male medical students. On the other hand, the participation from doctors and paramedical staff is quite remarkable.

### Choice of the vaccine

**Influence of the various vaccines on the factors considered for the study.**

**Table 2. Factors influencing the choice of vaccine**

| Factor                     | Covaxin | Covid Shield | Moderna | Pfizer | Sputnik |
|----------------------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Availability               | 15.7%   | 82.67%       | 0.2%    | 1.07%  | 0.3%    |
| Clinical trial             | 16.5%   | 81.4%        | 0.2%    | 1.2%   | 0.5%    |
| Peer influence             | 18.2%   | 76.1%        | 1.7%    | 2.4%   | 1%      |
| Social Media               | 16.94%  | 81.9%        | 0.24%   | 0.6%   | 0.1%    |
| Recommendation @ workplace | 16.30%  | 82.02%       | 0.26%   | 1.13%  | 0.26%   |
| Cost per Dose              | 14.79%  | 83.51%       | 0.29%   | 0.80%  | 0.58%   |
| Data efficacy              | 18.6%   | 79.75%       | .247%   | 0.89%  | 0.49%   |
| Travel restrictions        | 14.03%  | 83.48%       | 0.34%   | 1.78%  | 0.34%   |
| importance                 | 16.38%  | 81.35%       | 0.47%   | 1.23%  | 0.45%   |

## Ranking of the parameters by the participants

Table 3. Ranking of factors considered for choice of vaccine

|                        | Availability | Clinical trial | Peer influence | Social Media | Recommendation @ workplace | Cost per Dose | Data efficacy | Travel restrictions |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Absolute weight</b> | 3.60         | 3.25           | 2.85           | 2.505        | 2.87                       | 2.10          | 3.12          | 1.864               |
| <b>Rank</b>            | <b>1</b>     | 2              | 5              | 6            | 4                          | 7             | 3             | 8                   |

We can analyze the factors influencing the choice of vaccines from table 2 and the factors considered while choosing the vaccine from table 3.

From the above two tables it is evident that the most preferred vaccine among all is the covishield (81.35%) over Covaxin (16.38%). Other vaccines such as Moderna, Pfizer and Sputnik did not contribute significantly to the study.

The main two factors considered during the selection of vaccination by the healthcare workers are cost effectiveness (83.51%) and restrictions on international travel across countries (83.48%).

The other factors which were considered are availability (82.67%) and influence of social media (81.9%) influencing the choice of vaccines.

**EFFECT OF VACCINATION**

Initial investigation on the data collected from the questionnaire provided a great insight on the post vaccination effect. The various factors considered for the study were grouped into two categories namely Type -I and Type -II. Type -I comprises factors such as Fever, Headache and body pain which had adverse effects on the population, while Type- II - namely pain at site of injection, redness/swelling at site of injection, vomiting, nausea, dizziness and others has mild or moderate effects.

Table 4. Gender wise side effects of vaccines

| Sex    | Type 1 factors<br>(fever, headache,<br>body pain) | Type 2 factors<br>( pain at the site, redness, swelling,<br>vomiting, nausea and others) |
|--------|---|--|
| Female | 77.6%   | 41.1%  |
| Male   | 74%   | 37%  |

Table 4 gives us the details regarding the effects of vaccination for each gender. Females reported higher incidence of Type 1 factors (77.6%) followed by males (74%). Same trend was observed for type 2 factors as well, females (41.1%) and males (37%).

**Table 5. Percentage of Type-I factors on the population classified based on the gender and age group**

| Sex          | Age          | Not Reported | Mild   | Moderate | Severe | Very severe |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------|----------|--------|-------------|
| Female       | 18 to 25     | 18.24%       | 20.42% | 26.00%   | 22.25% | 13.09%      |
|              | 26 to 35     | 35.51%       | 18.12% | 25.36%   | 13.77% | 7.25%       |
|              | 36 to 50     | 38.10%       | 25.00% | 26.19%   | 7.14%  | 3.57%       |
|              | 51 to 65     | 36.81%       | 24.31% | 29.17%   | 7.87%  | 1.85%       |
|              | 65 and above | 66.67%       | --     | 33.33%   | --     | --          |
| <b>Total</b> |              | 22.14%       | 20.41% | 26.14%   | 19.85% | 11.46%      |
| Male         | 18 to 25     | 21.81%       | 17.90% | 31.07%   | 22.02% | 7.20%       |
|              | 26 to 35     | 41.67%       | 20.83% | 20.83%   | 10.42% | 6.25%       |
|              | 36 to 50     | 54.17%       | 16.67% | 29.17%   | ---    | ---         |
|              | 51 to 65     | 50.00%       | 33.33% | --       | 16.67% | ---         |
|              | 65 and above | 66.67%       | 33.33% | ---      | ---    | ---         |
| <b>Total</b> |              | 25.61%       | 18.42% | 29.47%   | 19.82% | 6.67%       |

Table 5 gives us the percentage of Type-1 factors (fever, headache, body pain) on the population classified based on the gender and age group.

It is clear that participants of the age group 18 to 25, suffered from fever of different degrees and headache due to vaccination, while the older group participants did not report high temperature or fever. Within the age group of 18 to 25, it was found that the female participants (33%) were found to be most affected (severe and very severe), when compared to male participants (28.8%).

Young Female population tend to react more to the vaccination when compared to the young adult males. While the overall side effect on the elders is significantly less.

**Table 6. Percentage of Type-II factors on the population classified based on the gender and age group**

| Sex           | Age          | Not Reported | Mild   | Moderate | Severe | Very severe |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------|----------|--------|-------------|
| <b>Female</b> | 18 to 25     | 55.80%       | 22.44% | 11.22%   | 6.58%  | 3.96%       |
|               | 26 to 35     | 68.94%       | 14.29% | 13.67%   | 1.24%  | 1.86%       |
|               | 36 to 50     | 83.67%       | 7.14%  | 7.14%    | 2.04%  | --          |
|               | 51 to 65     | 54.17%       | 24.20% | 18.25%   | 1.79%  | 1.59%       |
|               | 65 and above | 78.57%       | 7.14%  | 14.29%   | --     | ---         |
| <b>Total</b>  |              | 58.82%       | 20.69% | 11.50%   | 5.57%  | 3.42%       |
| <b>Male</b>   | 18 to 25     | 59.61%       | 17.81% | 13.23%   | 6.52%  | 2.82%       |
|               | 26 to 35     | 82.14%       | 7.14%  | 8.93%    | 1.79%  | 0.00%       |
|               | 36 to 50     | 78.57%       | 17.86% | 3.57%    | --     | ---         |
|               | 51 to 65     | 85.71%       | ---    | ---      | 14.29% | ---         |
|               | 65 and above | 85.71%       | 14.29% | --       | --     | --          |
| <b>Total</b>  |              | 62.86%       | 16.69% | 12.18%   | 5.87%  | 2.41%       |

Likewise, table 6 gives us the percentage of Type 2 factors (pain at the site of injection, redness or swelling at the site, nausea, vomiting, dizziness) the population classified based on gender and age group and they were found to have minimal or no significance on the population.

#### **TIMELINE OF PRESENCE OF SIDE EFFECTS:**

The data collected from the survey are grouped and the observations are tabulated.

**Table 7. Timeline of onset of the symptoms- side effects for I dose**

| Timeline | Sex    | Age (in years) | Immediate | 1 to 2 hours | 2 to 6 hours | 6 to 12 hours | 12 to 24 hours | 24 to 48 hours |
|----------|--------|----------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| fever    | Female | 18 to 25       | 0.52%     | 3.14%        | 22.51%       | 32.98%        | 18.85%         | 5.76%          |
|          |        | 26 to 35       | --        | 13.04        | 17.39%       | 34.78%        | 8.70%          | --             |

|                     |         |          |       |        |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------|---------|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                     |         |          |       | %      |        |        |        |        |
|                     |         | 36 to 50 | --    | 14.29% | 14.29% | 14.29% | 28.57% | ---    |
|                     | Male    | 18 to 25 | --    | 4.94%  | 18.52% | 34.57% | 22.22% | 4.94%  |
|                     |         | 26 to 35 | --    | ---    | 12.50% | 25.00% | 25.00% | 12.50% |
|                     |         | 36 to 50 | --    | --     | ---    | --     | 25.00% | --     |
|                     | average |          | 0.52  | 35.41  | 85.21  | 141.62 | 128.34 | 23.2   |
| headache            | Female  | 18 to 25 | 0.52% | 8.90%  | 18.32% | 24.61% | 13.61% | 3.14%  |
|                     |         | 26 to 35 | --    | 13.04% | 13.04% | 21.74% | 4.35%  | --     |
|                     |         | 36 to 50 | --    | 21.43% | --     | 14.29% | 7.14%  | --     |
|                     | Male    | 18 to 25 | 1.23% | 4.94%  | 17.28% | 20.99% | 14.81% | 4.     |
|                     |         | 26 to 35 | --    | --     | 12.50% | --     | --     | ---    |
|                     |         | average  |       | 1.75   | 48.31  | 61.14  | 81.63  | 39.91  |
| Fatigue & body pain | Female  | 18 to 25 | 1.57% | 7.85%  | 23.56% | 25.13% | 17.80% | 9.     |
|                     |         | 26 to 35 | 4.35% | 13.04% | 13.04% | 30.43% | 13.04% | ---    |
|                     |         | 36 to 50 | ---   | 21.43% | 14.29% | 7.14%  | 28.57% | ---    |
|                     | Male    | 18 to 25 | ---   | 8.64%  | 12.35% | 22.22% | 23.46% | 1      |
|                     |         | 26 to 35 | ---   | ---    | 25.00% | 25.00% | 25.00% | 12.50% |
|                     |         | 36 to 50 | ---   | ---    | ---    | 50.00% | 50.00% | ---    |
|                     | average |          | 5.92  | 41.96  | 88.24  | 159.92 | 157.87 | 34.8   |
| Joint pain          | Female  | 18 to 25 | 4.19% | 7.33%  | 8.90%  | 17.28% | 13.09% | 4.19   |



|                           |         |          |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                           |         | 26 to 35 | 4.35%  | 4.35%  | 8.70%  | 13.04% | 4.35%  | ---    |
|                           | Male    | 18 to 25 | --     | 6.17%  | 6.17%  | 18.52% | 14.81% | 6.17%  |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 | ---    | ---    | 12.50% | 12.50% | --     | ---    |
|                           | average |          | 8.54   | 17.85  | 36.27  | 61.34  | 32.25  | 10.36  |
| Muscle pain               | Female  | 18 to 25 | 2.09%  | 13.61% | 17.80% | 18.32% | 16.75% |        |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 | 4.35%  | 17.39% | 17.39% | 26.09% | 4.35%  |        |
|                           | Male    | 18 to 25 | ---    | 9.88%  | 11.11% | 27.16% | 18.52% | 6.17%  |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 | ---    | ---    | 12.50% | 12.50% | 12.50% | 25.00% |
|                           | average |          | 6.44   | 40.88  | 58.8   | 84.07  | 52.12  | 38.5   |
| Pain at site of injection | Female  | 18 to 25 | 13.61% | 20.94% | 18.85% | 15.71% | 10.47% | 1      |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 | 13.04% | 21.74% | 26.09% | 8.70%  | 8.70%  | 4.35%  |
|                           | Male    | 18 to 25 | 12.35% | 16.05% | 18.52% | 20.99% | 9.88%  | 14.81% |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 | 12.50% | 12.50% | 25.00% | 12.50% | ---    | ---    |
|                           | average |          | 51.50  | 71.23  | 88.46  | 57.9   | 29.05  | 32.77  |

Very few subjects have reported immediate side effects of the vaccination as fever, headache, fatigue/body pain etc.

Nearly 13% of the subjects reported immediate pain at the site of injection. This could be accounted for by the improper procedure followed during the injection.

About 20% of the subjects developed fever in the time interval of 6-12 hours.

Duration of the Prevalence of the symptoms

Table 8. Onset interval of symptoms

|                           | Sex     | Age      | 2 to 6 hours | 6 to 12 hours | 12 to 18 hours | 18 to 24 hours | 24 to 48 hours | 48 to 36 hours |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Fever                     | Female  | 18 to 25 | 9.42%        | 13.09%        | 14.66%         | 18.85%         | 23.56%         | 4.19%          |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 | 8.70%        | 30.43%        | 4.35%          | 13.04%         | 17.39%         | 4.35%          |
|                           |         | 36 to 50 |              | 21.43%        | 7.14%          | 21.43%         | 21.43%         |                |
|                           | Male    | 18 to 25 | 11.11%       | 12.35%        | 20.99%         | 19.75%         | 14.81%         | 4.94%          |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 |              | 22.22%        | 25.00%         | 25.00%         | 12.50%         | 12.50%         |
|                           |         | 36 to 50 |              | 25.00%        |                |                |                |                |
|                           | average |          | 9.74         | 20.75         | 72.14          | 98.07          | 89.69          | 26             |
| Headache                  | Female  | 18 to 25 | 13.09%       | 14.14%        | 13.61%         | 15.18%         | 12.57%         | 3.14%          |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 |              | 17.39%        | 4.35%          | 8.70%          | 13.04%         | 4.35%          |
|                           |         | 36 to 50 |              | 14.29%        | 7.14%          | 14.29%         | 7.14%          |                |
|                           | Male    | 18 to 25 | 13.58%       | 11.11%        | 12.35%         | 9.88%          | 11.11%         | 2.47%          |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 |              |               |                | 12.50%         |                |                |
|                           |         | 36 to 50 |              | 25.00%        |                |                |                |                |
| average                   |         | 26.67    | 81.93        | 37.45         | 60.55          | 43.86          | 9.96           |                |
| Pain at site of injection | Female  | 18 to 25 | 5.76%        | 11.52%        | 8.90%          | 11.52%         | 30.89%         | 21.99%         |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 | 8.70%        | 8.70%         | 4.35%          | 4.35%          | 43.48%         | 8.70%          |
|                           |         | 36 to 50 |              | 21.43%        |                | 28.57%         | 50.00%         |                |
|                           | Male    | 18 to 25 | 11.11%       | 11.11%        | 11.11%         | 14.81%         | 27.16%         | 17.28%         |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 |              | 12.50%        |                | 12.50%         | 12.50%         | 12.50%         |
|                           |         | 36 to 50 | 25.00%       |               | 25.00%         |                | 50.00%         |                |
| average                   |         | 50.57    | 65.26        | 49.36         | 71.75          | 214.03         | 60.47          |                |
| Fatigue and body pain     | Female  | 18 to 25 | 10.47%       | 12.04%        | 10.47%         | 16.75%         | 22.51%         | 11.52%         |
|                           |         | 26 to 35 | 4.35%        | 17.39%        | 8.70%          | 8.70%          | 30.43%         | 4.35%          |
|                           |         | 36 to 50 |              | 14.29%        | 7.14%          | 21.43%         | 28.57%         |                |

|             |         |          |       |        |        |        |        |        |
|-------------|---------|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|             | Male    | 18 to 25 | 9.88% | 6.17%  | 14.81% | 12.35% | 27.16% | 4.94%  |
|             |         | 26 to 35 |       |        | 12.50% | 25.00% | 37.50% | 12.50% |
|             |         | 36 to 50 |       | 25.00% | 25.00% |        | 50.00% |        |
|             | average |          | 24.7  | 74.89  | 78.62  | 84.23  | 245.67 | 33.31  |
| Muscle pain | Female  | 18 to 25 | 8.38% | 8.38%  | 11.52% | 14.66% | 19.90% | 7.33%  |
|             |         | 26 to 35 |       | 13.04% | 8.70%  | 17.39% | 17.39% | 4.35%  |
|             |         | 36 to 50 | 7.14% | 7.14%  |        |        | 21.43% |        |
|             | Male    | 18 to 25 | 7.41% | 6.17%  | 12.35% | 14.81% | 23.46% | 4.94%  |
|             |         | 26 to 35 |       |        | 12.50% | 12.50% | 25.00% | 12.50% |
|             |         | 36 to 50 |       |        |        |        |        |        |
|             | average |          | 22.93 | 34.73  | 45.07  | 59.36  | 107.18 | 29.12  |
| Joint pain  | Female  | 18 to 25 | 7.85% | 6.81%  | 7.85%  | 9.42%  | 17.28% | 6.81%  |
|             |         | 26 to 35 |       | 8.70%  |        | 8.70%  | 8.70%  |        |
|             |         | 36 to 50 |       |        |        |        | 14.29% |        |
|             | Male    | 18 to 25 | 3.70% | 8.64%  | 7.41%  | 13.58% | 12.35% | 4.94%  |
|             |         | 26 to 35 |       |        | 12.50% |        | 12.50% |        |
|             |         | 36 to 50 |       |        |        |        |        |        |
|             | average |          | 11.55 | 24.15  | 27.76  | 31.7   | 65.12  | 11.75  |

The above table provides an insight to the duration of the persistence of the symptoms experienced by the subjects reported for investigation.

A closer observation of the structured information provides the following insight aged subjects experiencing these symptoms under study was significantly very low.

Majority of the subjects reported fever, headache and muscle pain started ranging from 6 to 12hrs, while fatigue, pain at site of injection and joint pain ranges from 24 to 48 hours

## REMEDIAL ACTION

Table 9. Remedial actions to overcome the side effects

| SEX    | AGE        | Emeset, pantoprazole | Antiallergic medications | Home remedies | None | Paracetamol | remedies, visited doctor for help, Hospitalized | Paracetamol, None | Paracetamol, Visited doctor for help | Paracetamol, visited doctor for help, Antibiotics | Grand Total |
|--------|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|---|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Female | 18 to 25   | 2                    |                          |               | 23   | 161         | 2   | 2                 | 1                                    |   | 191         |
|        | 26 to 35   |                      | 1                        |               | 4    | 17          |   |                   |                                      |   | 23          |
|        | 36 to 50   |                      |                          | 1             | 5    | 8           |   |                   |                                      |   | 14          |
|        | 51 to 65   |                      |                          |               | 4    | 5           |   |                   |                                      |   | 9           |
|        | 65 & above |                      |                          |               | 1    | 1           |   |                   |                                      |   | 2           |
| Male   | 18 to 25   |                      |                          | 1             | 17   | 61          | 1   |                   |                                      | 1   | 81          |
|        | 26 to 35   |                      |                          |               | 5    | 3           |   |                   |                                      |   | 8           |
|        | 36 to 50   |                      |                          |               |      | 4           |   |                   |                                      |   | 4           |
|        | 51 to 65   |                      |                          |               | 1    |             |   |                   |                                      |   | 1           |
|        | 65 & above |                      |                          |               | 1    |             |   |                   |                                      |   | 1           |

More than 70% of the subject did not undergo any treatment, they treated themselves with paracetamol (more than 70%). No hospitalization was reported

## II stage vaccination

The vaccine administered at the second stage was the same as that of the first.

Table 10. Consolidated effect of the second dose

| <i>Did you feel any side effects after SECOND DOSE OF VACCINATION?</i> |               |        |        |             |
|--|---------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| SEX  | AGE(in years) | No     | Yes    | Grand Total |
| Female   | 18 to 25      | 72.99% | 27.01% | 100.00%     |
|  | 26 to 35      | 72.97% | 27.03% | 100.00%     |

|              |              |         |        |         |
|--------------|--------------|---------|--------|---------|
|              | 36 to 50     | 73.33%  | 26.67% | 100.00% |
|              | 51 to 65     | 57.89%  | 42.11% | 100.00% |
|              | 65 and above | 50.00%  | 50.00% | 100.00% |
| Female Total |              | 71.76%  | 28.24% | 100.00% |
| Male         | 18 to 25     | 83.53%  | 16.47% | 100.00% |
|              | 26 to 35     | 95.00%  | 5.00%  | 100.00% |
|              | 36 to 50     | 100.00% |        | 100.00% |
|              | 51 to 65     | 100.00% |        | 100.00% |
|              | 65 and above | 100.00% |        | 100.00% |
| Male Total   |              | 89.05%  | 10.95% | 100.00% |

From the above data, 80.40% of the subjects under study did not have any adverse side effects due to second vaccination. Very few had reported mild to severe rise in temperature, body pain, fatigue and muscular pain, when compared to the stage one vaccination.

It is also evident that females reported more side effects (28.24%) than the males (10.95%). It is also remarkable to mention that the female above the age of 65 years had reported in significant percentage (50%). Second dose of the vaccination has minimal to very low side effects when compared to the first dose on the subjects.

## DISCUSSION

A highly potent and effective vaccine has the ability to mitigate the serious sequel of covid 19 infection in humans. However, this comes along with some unfavorable side effects of vaccination with additional studies conducted <sup>(9)</sup> which question the acceptance among people and eventually tapering the drive for vaccination. The reported side effects are however mild and treatable under proper supervision with very few cases requiring intensive care and approach. In a study conducted by Wu Q et al, it was suggested that the available evidence indicates that eligible COVID-19 vaccines have an acceptable short-term safety profile<sup>(3)</sup>.

The most common side effects encountered were fever, body pain, pain at the site of injection and head

ache. Other side effects like nausea, vomiting, arthralgia, myalgia, anaphylaxis were less commonly reported <sup>(10)</sup>.

Majority of the side effects reported were mild to moderate in nature which resolved over a few days' post vaccination. This finding was similar to a study done by Kaplan RM et al in which Expected benefit was more influential in respondents' decision making than expected side effects<sup>(4)</sup>. No serious events requiring hospitalization was reported

The side effects were reported higher among the younger population comprising females on a large scale than males. The incidence and severity of side effects declined as the age advanced.

## CONCLUSION

From our study, it is evident that the benefits of the vaccination outweigh the risks significantly. This has to be propagated to the public so that the fear of AEFI is reduced and more people volunteer for vaccination. The healthcare system must be equipped and alert with all facilities for tackling any serious AEFI outbreak in the community.

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