



About on "Factors in Vaccine Refusal by Patients Applying for COVID-19 PCR Test"

"COVID-19 PZR Testi için Başvuran Hastalar Tarafından Aşı Reddindeki Faktörler" Hakkında

Behcet AL, Ferhat ARSLAN

Istanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine, İstanbul, Turkey

Keywords: Letter, statement, discussion, COVID-19, PCR test

Anahtar kelimeler: Mektup, açıklama, tartışma, COVID-19, PZR testi

Dear Editor,

We would like to make a statement regarding the letter written to the editor for our study titled "Factors in Vaccine Refusal by Patients Applying for COVID-19 PCR Test" and was published in Medeniyet Medical Journal¹.

First, we would like to thank the authors for their interest in our study². We believe that such criticisms greatly contribute to scientific studies³. We also congratulate the author for his scientific courage.

Community resistance to coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) vaccines has begun to be addressed in new studies^{4,5}. We find the results of the studies conducted on this subject precious. However, in our study¹, we deemed it appropriate to perform the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and evaluate only those who refused to be vaccinated.

The purpose of study¹ was to determine the reasons for vaccine rejection in patients who applied for a COVID-19 PCR test but did not receive the

vaccine. To reveal the underlying reasons for refusing to be vaccinated, direct questions were asked to the participants and their answers were analyzed.

However, to understand whether the reasons for refusing to be vaccinated are limited to COVID-19, participants were also asked about their opinions on childhood vaccines. In such studies, it is appropriate to analyze data based on the answers given by the participants. The results were compared with the demographic data of the participants. As can be understood from the purpose of the study, the scope is limited to people who refuse vaccination. For this reason, all stages were performed in accordance with the purpose of the study. The objectives exclude whether the vaccine is beneficial or not, or comparing those who accept and refuse to be vaccinated⁶. This point is clearly stated in the "inclusion criteria" of the study¹.

Participants who agreed to be vaccinated and who were involved in the development of methods to deal with vaccine rejection were not included in this study.

Address for Correspondence: B. Al, Istanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine, İstanbul, Turkey

E-mail: behcetal@gmail.com **ORCID ID:** orcid.org/0000-0001-8743-8731

Received: 07 January 2024

Accepted: 14 January 2024

Online First: 05 February 2024

Cite as: Al B, Arslan F. About on "Factors in Vaccine Refusal by Patients Applying for COVID-19 PCR Test". Medeni Med J 2024;39:72-73



Copyright© 2024 The Author. Published by Galenos Publishing House on behalf of Istanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Medicine. This is an open access article under the Creative Commons AttributionNonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) License.

However, we definitely see these good ideas as important. These points can be addressed in future studies. These points are among the limitations of our study¹.

We thank the author for providing the basis for these beautiful scientific discussions and evaluations. We also congratulate you, the editor of the journal, for bringing both sides together on this useful discussion.

We declare that we are open to any criticism regarding the study.

We respect you.

Ethics

Author Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: B.A., Concept: B.A., Design: B.A., Data Collection or Processing: F.A., Analysis or Interpretation: F.A., Literature Search: F.A., Writing: B.A.

Conflict of Interest: The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

Financial Disclosure: The authors declared that this study has received no financial support.

REFERENCES

1. Arslan F, Al Behcet, Solakoglu GoA, Gulsoy OF, Nuhoglu C, Ayten S. Factors in Vaccine Refusal by Patients Applying for COVID-19 PCR Test. *Medeniyet Med J.* 2023;38:193-203.
2. Daungsupawong H, Wiwanitkit V. Correspondence on "Factors in Vaccine Refusal by Patients Applying for COVID-19 PCR Test". *Medeni Med J.* 2024 Feb 5. doi:10.4274/MMJ.galenos.2024.71508. [Epub ahead of print].
3. Siau K, El-Omar E. How to write a Letter to the Editor. *United European Gastroenterol J.* 2020;8:981-3.
4. Kelsall J. COVID-19 vaccine refusal as unfair free-riding. *Med Health Care Philos.* 2024 Jan 8. doi: 10.1007/s11019-023-10188-2. [Epub ahead of print].
5. Kiptoo J, Isiiko J, Yadesa TM, Rhodah T, Alele PE, Mulogo EM. COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy: assessing the prevalence, predictors, and effectiveness of a community pharmacy based counseling intervention. *BMJ Public Health.* 2024;24:111.
6. Bajracharya D, Jansen RJ. Observations of COVID-19 vaccine coverage and vaccine hesitancy on COVID-19 outbreak: An American ecological study. *Vaccine.* 2024;42:246-54.