

Scientific research process statement

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Title: Vaccination uptake against respiratory infections in Arabian Gulf countries: barriers and motivators

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Scientific research process statement:

This study aimed to evaluate the uptake of vaccinations against infections that transmit via respiratory route among members of the public in the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) countries. The study was a cross-sectional survey among the GCC countries' residents aged ≥ 16 years old. The data were collected electronically (online) through a previously pilot tested smartphone app called the 'Gulf Indicators' (GI) app, which was released in Apple App before the commencement of the study. The respondents voluntarily registered to the GI platform, and after completing the consent form, they were led to the survey questionnaire. The survey questions aimed to investigate the respondents' awareness about vaccinations against influenza, pertussis, and pneumococcal and meningococcal infections, and collected data concerning the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, their perception toward vaccine uptake, their understanding of the risk of exposure to viruses carrying airborne diseases, and the factors that influenced their vaccine receipt.

The data collected were analysed statistically using SPSS v.23.0 (SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Parameters such as the response rates and users' characteristics were studied through a descriptive analysis. Differences in the characteristics of users from different countries were quantified through bivariate analysis. Other important variables and controlling factors related to the research topic such as age, gender, country, chronic medical conditions, and educational level, were assessed by logistic regression, by using the backward Wald method.