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Does an educational intervention improve parents’ knowledge about immunization? Experience from Malaysia

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Abstract

Background: Parents' knowledge about immunization is an important predictor factor for their children’s immunization status. The aim of this study was to assess parents’ knowledge and to evaluate the effect of a short educational intervention on improving parents’ knowledge of childhood immunization. Method: A cross-sectional study using a pre- and post-test intervention survey of a single group was conducted among Malaysian parents. Changes in total knowledge score before and after the intervention were measured using a validated questionnaire. The intervention consisted of an animated movie and lecture using simple understandable language. Wilcoxon signed rank test and the McNemar x² test were applied to compare the differences in knowledge before and after the intervention. Results: Seventy-three parents were enrolled in this study, the majority were mothers (n = 64, 87.7%). Parents' knowledge about childhood immunization increased significantly after the intervention compared to the baseline results (p < 0.001). There were significant differences between parents' knowledge and their educational level and monthly income (p < 0.001 and p = 0.005), respectively. Conclusion: A short educational intervention designed for parents had a positive effect on their knowledge about immunization. Educational interventions targeting parents with low levels of education and income are needed. Further studies investigating the actual effectiveness of such interventions on immunization rates and statutes are required.

Author keywords

Educational intervention, Immunization, Knowledge, Malaysia, Parents

Indexed keywords

EMTREE medical terms: adult, Article, female, Health education, health promotion, human, immunization, knowledge, Malaysia, male, parental attitude, questionnaire, attitude to health, cross-sectional study, education, educational status, income, parent, vaccination, young adult

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