

Willingness to receive a future adult tuberculosis vaccine in Lusaka, Zambia: Perspectives from community members and healthcare workers

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Background: One or more new adult TB vaccines could become available in the next 5-7 years. To assess willingness to receive a new TB vaccine, we conducted a household- and facility-based survey among adult community members and healthcare workers (HCWs), respectively, in Lusaka, Zambia.

Methods: Community members were enrolled from randomly selected households (1 per household) within 4 communities with the highest rates of COVID-19 non-vaccination in Lusaka, while HCWs were recruited from 10 public health centers. Mixed-effects adjusted Poisson regression was used to estimate the marginal probability of participants' intent to get a new adult TB vaccine upon availability and identify the most trustworthy vaccine sources.

Results: We enrolled 499 participants: 395 community members (median age: 30 years, 52.7% female, 10.9% self-reported HIV-positive, 66.6% with 0 or 1 COVID-19 vaccine doses) and 104 HCWs (29.8% with 0 or 1 COVID-19 vaccine dose). The adjusted probability that community members and HCWs intended to definitely get a new TB vaccine upon availability was 76.9% (95% CI: 71.9-82.0) and 82.6% (95% CI: 71.5-93.6), respectively. Only perceived TB risk was independently associated with an intention to get a new TB vaccine, ranging from 49.5% (95% CI: 22.6-76.5) to 82.4% (95% CI: 77.6-87.2) among those not at all concerned to very concerned about TB, respectively (Table). The most trusted sources for vaccines were the Zambian Ministry of Health (87.6%), HCWs (68.2%), and the government (53.8%).

Conclusion: High intentions to receive a future TB vaccine among community members and HCWs were strongly tied to risk perception, emphasizing the need to clearly communicate TB risks and vaccination benefits upon availability. In anticipation of new TB vaccines, it is crucial to keep governments informed and to educate healthcare workers about upcoming vaccine options, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve as advocates and trusted sources of information.

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Conflicts of Interest

None

