Review of: "Vaccination campaigns against Covid-19 may promote vaccine hesitancy"

Jean Pierre Michel

1 University of Geneva

Potential competing interests: GSK, Moderna, Pfizer and TSI

I was extremely surprised that 2 well known authors can write such a biased and completist paper.

They are looking at the world with blinkers looking at only one side of the reality, voluntary forgetting that COVID 19 vaccine prevented 14.4 million deaths (95% credible interval [Crl] 13.7–15.9) from COVID-19 in 185 countries and territories. When using excess deaths as an estimate of the true extent of the pandemic, this estimate rose to 19.8 million deaths from COVID-19 averted global reduction of 63% in total deaths.

Without entering into the debate, I would only like to stress two, among many others, evidence neglected by authors, who apparently based their negativist arguments:

- RNA COVID vaccine was developed in one year but after more than 60 years of research (Elie Dolgin Nature 2021; 597: 318-25)
- Myocarditis and pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccine doses delivered, were less than half of the incidences of these pathologies after SARS-CoV-2 infection (Hromić-Jahjefendić A et al Biomedicines 2023 May 17;11(5):1469).

The main problem in medicine and public health is the evaluation of the benefits/risks ratio, which apparently is not in the mind by the authors.

Indeed, this polemic paper can only contribute to decrease vaccine uptake.

I strongly affirming that this paper is not welcome in a serious medical journal.