

Review of: "[Viewpoint] Vaccination campaigns against Covid-19 may promote vaccine hesitancy toward mostly well-established, safe, and effective vaccines"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I have been asked to post a public review of this [Viewpoint] paper. Firstly, I must repeat the proviso I make with editors who ask me to review papers which treat topics of a medical nature, namely that I am not a physician but only a mathematician who has collaborated with medical and health-care professionals in the writing up of some papers where I take care of the statistical analysis in the paper, including a paper on attitudes of the general public towards vaccinations, in particular, Covid-19 vaccinations.

This paper, as such, does not contain any data analysis. Yet its authors ring some serious alarm bells regarding clinical testing of the Covid-19 vaccination, particularly against what it claims to be deficiencies in making publicly available more data from clinical trials of the vaccine.

In some cases, for example their reference to a paper on the Cumberlege Review, the serious side-effects referred to were caused by other medications, not the Covid-19 vaccination. And although the authors qualify these side-effects with the phrase "as with other medications in the past", the juxtapositioning of the reference might lead the reader to think that they are referring to side-effects of the Covid-19 vaccination. Otherwise, I think that the authors support robustly their concerns with references. But I leave this conclusion to medical professionals who would be able to make better judgements.

It must be stressed that this is not an "anti-vaxxer" paper, firstly because it backs up its claims with reliable reference taken from the relevant literature, and secondly because the authors express their fear that campaigns against Covid-19 vaccination may promote vaccine hesitancy in general unless some of their concerns are addressed. In fact, the stated aim of the authors is to reduce public hesitancy "toward well-established, safe, and effective vaccines."

I am sure that this paper will elicit positive and negative responses which, I hope, could lead to measures which would increase public acceptance of vaccinations.