

Vaccination Attitudes and Motivation for Travel Vaccines in Germany

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Background:

Determinants of travel vaccine uptake are multifaceted and shaped by a complex interplay of regulatory frameworks, clinical considerations, and individual health beliefs.

Materials and Methods:

Within the TravVacNet travel vaccination network, vaccinees completed anonymous questionnaires on general vaccination attitudes and vaccine-specific attitudes (dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever (YF)). Attitudes were quantified using numerical rating scales (0–10; 0=very negative, 10=very positive).

Results:

Among 1190 participants (female: 59.6%, 709/1190), the median age was 36 years (range: 4–83); 3.4% were <18 and 16.3% ≥60 years old. Of 1190 respondents 48.7% (579/1190) received dengue, 34.5% (410/1190) YF and 16.9% (201/1190) chikungunya vaccines (single and multiple vaccinations). Main reasons for vaccination were travel medicine recommendations (724/1190, 60.8%), self initiated vaccination request (268/1190, 22.5%), previous dengue infection (26/579, 4.5%) and legal YF requirements (127/410, 31.0%). General vaccination attitudes were most favourable in the chikungunya group (mean(M)=9.0, standard deviation(SD)=1.5), followed by dengue (M=8.97, SD=1.6) and YF (M=8.8, SD=1.7). Attitude towards the administered vaccine was most favourable in the YF group (M=9.0, SD=1.6). Within the dengue subgroup, there was no negative effect of a first vaccination on the attitude towards the second (pre: M=8.8, post: M=8.9). Men showed higher openness towards administered vaccines than women across all subgroups (men: M=8.8–9.2; women: M=8.2–8.8; p<0.001).

Conclusion:

Mandatory vaccination due to international travel regulations was associated with more positive attitudes towards vaccinations in general and towards the specific vaccine. An additional influencing factor included the tendency of women to be more critical of travel-related vaccines than men.