



Compliance with Influenza Vaccination among Healthcare Workers (HCWs) – Tailoring Risk Communication According to Factors Affecting Compliance

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Background

HCWs should be considered as the prime risk group for influenza vaccination for the following reasons:

1. They need to be protected in order to ensure that they are not absent from work when most needed
2. They can infect and be infected by patients
3. They can infect and be infected by their family members
4. They are in front of the communication chain to encourage vaccination of the population

Aims

To identify the main factors affecting compliance in order to tailor risk communication for this population.

Methods

A comprehensive literature review on compliance and factors associated with compliance with influenza vaccination among HCWs.

Results

Compliance with vaccination against influenza among HCWs has always been extremely variable (see Figure 1).

Results

Major positive factors affecting compliance in HCWs include protection of self, patients and family (see Table 1). Major negative factors affecting compliance in HCWs include fear of side effects, skepticism about the efficacy and no fear of influenza (see Table 2).

Table 1: Positive Factors Affecting Compliance*

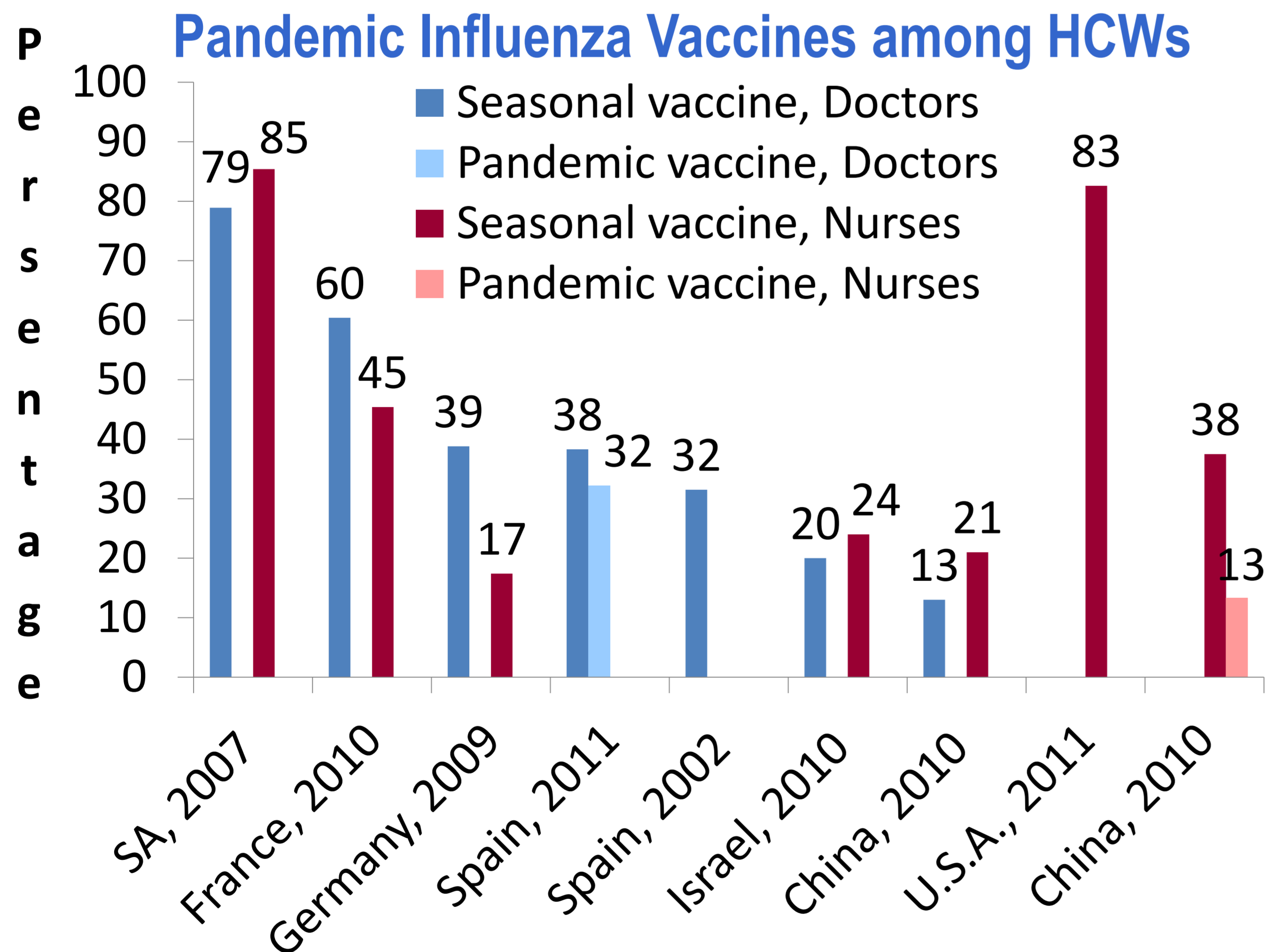
	Factors	Range (%)	Countries
Major	Self-protection	71-96	SP USA CH DE AU SA CA IR
	Desire to protect patients	63-98	SP USA CH AU IT DE SA CA
	Desire to protect family members	59-75	SP USA CH AU IT DE CA
Minor	Easy access to vaccine	58-68	DE USA IR
	Vaccine perceived to be effective	43-68	CH AU

Table 2: Negative Factors Affecting Compliance*

	Factors	Range (%)	Countries
Major	Fear of side effects of vaccine	29-54	DE USA UK CA SW GR
	Skepticism about efficacy of vaccine	14-45	CA USA UK GR
	No fear of Influenza	18-32	DE UK USA SW IR
Minor	Inconvenience in accessing vaccine	8-24	IT DE GR UK

* Outliners excluded

Figure 1: Compliance with Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza Vaccines among HCWs



Conclusions

There are both positive and negative factors affecting compliance with vaccination in HCWs. On the basis of numerous surveys, these can be divided broadly into major and minor factors. Failure to take into account adequately these factors may be the reason why many of the educational campaigns have been relatively unsuccessful. Thus it is essential that they should be taken into account when designing risk communication policy.