

## Flu vaccination coverage during pregnancy in Tunisia, 2018-19 Influenza-seasons

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### Abstract

WHO recommends seasonal influenza vaccine for all pregnant women because of their increased risk for serious flu-related complications. In Tunisia, the flu vaccine uptake among pregnant women is not available. The aim of this study was to determine prevalence of flu vaccine uptake during pregnancy. A Tunisian national cross sectional study was conducted at the end of 2018-19 flu season, among pregnant women of at least 18 years old, attending primary or secondary health facilities for a routine antenatal care visit, according to a self-weighted two stage sampling design. Data were collected via a questionnaire administered by interviewers in face to face encounters. The vaccination uptake was self-reported. A total of 1157 pregnant women were enrolled in this survey. The majority of them (91.4%) reported not receiving a recommendation or offer of vaccination during their current pregnancy. Overall, during the 2018-19 influenza season, only fifty-one expectants (4.4% [3.3-5.7]) get the flu shot through the time of the survey. They were aged between 25 and 34 years in 66.7% of cases and multiparous in 60.8% and less than half of them reported having prior comorbidities (45.1%) or complications (42.0%) during this pregnancy. In Tunisia, the coverage of influenza vaccine among pregnant women is very low. Incorporating routine administration of flu vaccine with cost-free access within the national antenatal care program might substantially increase flu vaccination compliance during pregnancy.

### Biography:

Sonia Dhaouadi, graduated from Faculty of medicine of Tunis, Tunisia, She is a Tunisia medical doctor in public health. She carried out work on the epidemiology of cancers in Northern Tunisia at the national reference institute for cancer care: Salah Azaiez Institute. On the occasion of COVID-19's pandemic, she was part of the team of outbreak investigation in Tunisia and seroprevalence survey of SARS-Cov-2 of specific antibodies at National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases, the central structure of health monitoring in Tunisia.

### Speaker Publications:

1. Dhaouadi S, Cherif A, Osman M, Hsairi M. Cancer incidence trend in Northern Tunisia: 1994-2009. *European Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 29, Supplement 4. 2019: p.625.
2. Talmoudi K, Safer M, Letaief H, Hchaichi A, Harizi C, Dhaouadi S et al. Estimating transmission dynamics and serial interval of the first wave of COVID-19 infections under different control measures: A statistical analysis in Tunisia from February 29 to May 5, 2020. *BMC Infectious Diseases*. 2020; 15.
3. Cherif A, Dhaouadi S, Osman M, Hsairi M. Lung Cancer burden of disease in The Northern Tunisia. *European Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 29, Supplement 4. 2019:p.469-70.
4. Cherif A, Dhaouadi S, Osman M, Hsairi M. Breast Cancer burden in Tunisia: situation in 2017 and projections by 2030. *European Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 29, Supplement 4. 2019: p.469.

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