

29<sup>th</sup> International Conference on **Pediatrics & Primary Care**  
&  
15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on **Clinical Dermatology**

September 23-24, 2019 Barcelona, Spain

### Factors associated with delayed vaccination in children

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**Background:** Complete and timely childhood vaccination is one of the most cost-effective interventions in improving child survival. Delay in receipt of vaccination might result in a child being susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases. Identification of factors which contribute to delay in receipt of vaccination will help in developing targeted interventions.

**Objective:** The present study was conducted to assess the reasons for the delay in vaccination in children below 6-years-old and to determine the factors influencing the timeliness of vaccination.

**Method:** A cross-sectional study was conducted at the National Guard Comprehensive Specialized Clinic in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The study population consisted of 1000 mother-child pairs attending the Well Baby Clinic. Data was collected by direct interview using a predesigned questionnaire.

**Results:** Out of the 1000 study subjects, 224 (22.4%) had presented late for vaccination. The most common reason for the late presentation was that the child was ill on the scheduled day of vaccination. The higher level of maternal education and working mother were found to be statistically significantly associated with delayed vaccination.

**Conclusion:** The higher level of maternal education and working mother are significantly associated with delayed vaccination. These mothers need more health education on the importance of timely commencement of vaccination to ensure timeliness of receipt of doses of vaccines.

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