Family Support for COVID-19 Vaccination in Older Adults: Scoping Review

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ABSTRACT
Older adults are the group that has the lowest COVID-19 vaccination coverage of all age groups. Information about the safety and side effects of vaccines is a factor that causes older adults not to be vaccinated. Family as the closest support system for older adults is vital to achieving COVID-19 Vaccination. This study aimed to explore the various types of support families provide to older adults in the COVID-19 vaccination process based on published research articles. In this scoping review, the authors used four databases, Embase, Cinahl, Cochrane, Pubmed, and Google Scholar, like other reference sources, to obtain eleven articles discussing family support for the COVID-19 vaccination process. Results Based on the study using the PRISMA diagram, seven articles were eligible with the inclusion and exclusion criteria for this scoping review; from this article, it was found that the support provided by the family during the COVID-19 vaccination process in the older adults consisted of emotional, accessibility, and informational support. Providing information accompanied by solid motivation from the family is the key to the success of the COVID-19 vaccination process in older adults. Ease of accessibility is the main supporting factor beyond the motivation and information provided by the family.

Keywords:
Older adults
Family support
COVID-19 vaccination

Introduction

The COVID-19 vaccination program is considered the key to the pandemic rate because it can reduce morbidity and mortality and build group immunity against the COVID-19 virus (Setiyo Adi Nugroho, 2021). Older adults, vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, are one of the priority groups receiving the COVID-19 Vaccination. Data from the Ministry of Health (Wilsa Azmalia Putri, 2021) 2021 shows that the coverage of COVID-19 vaccination in older adults has only reached 41.18%.

The low coverage of COVID-19 Vaccination in older adults is due to older adults having concerns and doubts about the vaccine’s side effects. Therefore, efforts can be made to reduce anxiety and doubts about the side effects of vaccines in older adults by providing factual information on the COVID-19 vaccination process. The family can provide accurate information about the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in older adults as the closest support system for the elderly. The form of support that families can provide to older people can be informed about the importance of vaccines.

The trustworthiness of information provided by families is the same as trusted formal sources of information from governments and organizations that handle COVID-19. Based on a study conducted by (Tan et al., 2022) shows that information about the need for COVID-19 vaccination in the elderly can increase motivation and achievement of COVID-19 Vaccination.

Other forms of support that can be provided by the family apart from providing information can be in the form of providing easy access for older adults to carry out the vaccination process (Hutomo et al., 2021).

Based on Friedman's theory, the family has four dimensions of support: emotional, informational, instrumental and appreciation support. The different conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic have made the form of appreciation support given from family to older adults unable to run because the COVID-19 Vaccination is a mandatory program in handling the pandemic (Deni Suwardiman, 2011). This scoping review aims to explore the various types of support families provide to older adults in the COVID-19 vaccination process based on published articles.

Method

The design of this study used the scoping review method. The data sources used in the article search used four databases, Embase, CINAHL, Cochrane, Pubmed, and Google Scholar, as other reference sources. Controlled vocabulary searches in 3 databases were carried out by searching for MeSH (Medical Subject Heading) and Emtree and synonyms found in Table 1. Articles selected for review must meet the inclusion criteria, namely articles that discuss the role of the family as a support system for older adults in the COVID-19 vaccination process. Furthermore, the researcher issued an article discussing older adults with complicated diseases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
<th>Controlled Vocabulary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>(&quot;aged patient&quot; OR &quot;aged people&quot; OR &quot;aged person&quot; OR &quot;aged subject&quot; OR &quot;elderly&quot; OR &quot;elderly patient&quot; OR &quot;elderly people&quot; OR &quot;elderly person&quot; OR &quot;elderly subject&quot; OR &quot;senior citizen&quot; OR &quot;senium&quot; OR &quot;aged, 80 and over&quot; OR &quot;centenarian&quot; OR &quot;centenarians&quot; OR &quot;nonagenarian&quot; OR &quot;nonagenarians&quot; OR &quot;octogenarian&quot; OR &quot;octogenarians&quot; OR &quot;very old&quot; OR &quot;older adult&quot; OR &quot;older adults&quot; OR &quot;Elderly&quot; OR &quot;Old Persons&quot; OR &quot;Older Persons&quot; OR &quot;80 and Over, Aged&quot; OR &quot;80 and over&quot; OR &quot;Aged over 80&quot; OR &quot;Over 80&quot; OR &quot;ageing&quot; OR &quot;Retired&quot;))</td>
<td>“Aged” OR &quot;Aged, 80 and over&quot; (MeSH and Emtree)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concept</td>
<td>(&quot;Family support&quot; OR &quot;support, social&quot; OR &quot;family attitude&quot; OR &quot;parent attitude&quot; OR &quot;social care&quot;))</td>
<td>“Family support” And “Social Support” (MesH and Emtree)</td>
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Family Support for COVID-19 ...

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<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<th>Controlled Vocabulary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>((&quot;2019-nCoV vaccine&quot; OR &quot;2019-nCov virus&quot; OR &quot;coronavirus disease 2019 vaccine&quot; OR &quot;COVID 19 vaccine&quot; OR &quot;2019-nCov&quot; OR &quot;vaccine&quot; OR OR &quot;SARS-CoV-2 inactivated vaccine&quot; OR &quot;SARS-CoV-2&quot; OR &quot;COVID-19 Vaccine&quot; OR &quot;severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 vaccine&quot; OR &quot;SARS-CoV-2 recombinant protein&quot; OR &quot;SARS-CoV-2 virus vaccine&quot; OR &quot;virus vaccine&quot; OR &quot;coronavirus vaccine&quot; OR &quot;vaccines, COVID-19&quot;))</td>
<td>“SARS-CoV-2 vaccine&quot; And &quot;COVID-19 Vaccines (MeshH and Entree)</td>
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Results and Discussion

The database search was carried out on February 1, 2022, on the PubMed, Cochrane, Embase, and CINAHL databases, while the Google Scholar search was carried out on February 2, 2022, with full detail of obtaining articles from four databases and one other reference, 351 articles. The article was duplicated and issued an abstract conference and a full-text search; after finding the full-text article, further screening was carried out to find seven articles that matched the inclusion criteria. For more details, the author documents the search for articles using the PRISMA flow diagram, shown in Figure 1. After screening the Prisma flow diagram, the article that will be reviewed is analyzed for the character of each article which can be seen in Table 2. If we look at the distribution of the articles found, three articles came from America, and four other articles came from Europe and Asia, intending to see the perception of older adults in vaccinating against COVID-19. Based on the results obtained from the article to be reviewed, most older adults have fears and doubts about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, it was also found that the support provided by the family was more moral than the older adults received for the COVID-19 vaccination process. Based on the results obtained from the articles to be reviewed, older adults experience worries and fears about the vaccine’s side effects due to a lack of information from their family or closest people.
Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Diagram
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Authors and year of publication</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Purpose of the study</th>
<th>Sample of the study</th>
<th>Result of the study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Laura D. Allen, Idalina Z. Odziemczyk, Jolanta Perek-Białas, Liat Ayalon (2021)</td>
<td>US (United States)</td>
<td>Analysis of comments on online newspaper articles on perceptions and order of priority for COVID-19 vaccines.</td>
<td>Four hundred forty online comments on that article.</td>
<td>When analyzing the results of the commentators, older adult families perceive that their parents deserve to be a priority for the COVID-19 vaccine because they want their parents to enjoy a minimal remaining life.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Bhanu, C. Gopal, D. P. Walters, K. Chaudhry, U. A. R. (2021)</td>
<td>US (United States)</td>
<td>To report perceptions, beliefs, and attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination in the elderly from ethnic minority backgrounds.</td>
<td>This research is a systematic review, a total of 28 article reviews.</td>
<td>Due to misunderstandings and lack of information about the efficacy or side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine, it is challenging to take the COVID-19 vaccination in older adults.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Fitria Istina Dewi (2021)</td>
<td>Bogor, Indonesia</td>
<td>Providing information on obstacles in the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program for the elderly so that it can be taken into consideration in achieving the successful implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program for the elderly</td>
<td>10 sample older adults.</td>
<td>Barriers to implementing the COVID-19 vaccination program for older adults are concerns and fears about the vaccine’s side effects. Environmental factors also significantly affect the participation of older adults in the Covid 19 vaccination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Fadda, M. Suggs, L. S. Albanese, E. (2021)</td>
<td>Southern Switzerland</td>
<td>to explore the attitudes and beliefs of older adults regarding future covid-19 vaccinations.</td>
<td>19 sample older adults</td>
<td>The attitude of older adults who are against or unsure of the efficacy and effectiveness of vaccines will impact the low coverage of COVID-19 vaccination in older adults.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Sri Martini, Ira Kusumawaty, Yunike (2021)</td>
<td>Palembang, Indonesia</td>
<td>To determine the perception and readiness of the elderly to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.</td>
<td>Ten samples of older adults (six males and four females)</td>
<td>The older adults’ perception of COVID-19 vaccination is influenced by information from the media and the environment. So the number of vaccination coverage in older adults is low. Family support is an essential aspect for older adults to influence the readiness of the older adults to receive vaccines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Fuchs, J. R. Fuchs, J. W. Tietz, S. E. Lum, H. D. (2021)</td>
<td>US (United States)</td>
<td>To improve the health system and clinic-level interventions to promote access to COVID-19 Vaccination for older adults with LEP.</td>
<td>2550 sample aged 70 and older</td>
<td>During the COVID-19 vaccination process, especially in older adults with LEP, several interventions can be done involving family members or trusted caregivers to help schedule vaccination appointments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Malesza, Marta Bozym, Magdalena (2021)</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>To achieve a better understanding of what affects the COVID-19 vaccine</td>
<td>1427 respondents inclusion criteria (being aged 70+ and living amongst the general public)</td>
<td>A significant influence in receiving vaccines is concerns about vaccine safety and fear of vaccine side effects.</td>
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The results of the articles reviewed can be seen in Table 3. Three supports are given to elderly families in the COVID-19 vaccination process to help older adults be vaccinated.

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<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>Family Support in the COVID-19 Vaccination Process</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>(Bhanu et al., 2021); (Allen et al., 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>(Bhanu et al., 2021); (Istina Dewi, 2021); (Fuchs et al., 2021); (Malesza &amp; Bozym, 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>(Martini et al., 2021); (Fadda et al., 2021); (Bhanu et al., 2021); (Malesza &amp; Bozym, 2021)</td>
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Table 3. Family Support for the COVID-19 Vaccination in the Elderly

The COVID-19 vaccination is a government program in various countries to protect each individual against COVID-19. The pros and cons of the COVID-19 vaccination process are also problems that governments in these countries must face in creating communal immunity. As one of the main targets in the vaccination process, older adults cannot be separated from these pros and cons. As the smallest unit in society, the family has a vital role in the success of achieving communal immunity. According to the articles found, there are three types of support given by the family to older adults related to COVID-19 Vaccination. These three supports are emotional, accessibility, and informational. According to the famous theory of family support, there are four types of support given by the family: emotional, instrumental, informational, and appreciation. Based on the articles found, appreciation support is the only support that not showed during the COVID-19 Vaccination. This is because the COVID-19 vaccination is a government-mandated program in most countries, so there are regulations that require Vaccination as a condition for community activities such as holidays or gatherings (Tan et al., 2022). Information circulating in the community about the negative aspects of vaccines is one of the barriers for older adults to be vaccinated. Providing family motivation, such as a positive influence on the importance of vaccines playing an active role, can result in older adults being willing to be vaccinated (Bhanu et al., 2021). This happens because emotional support and family members play a significant role in changing the behaviour of older adults, so they want to be vaccinated (Allen et al., 2021).

Another obstacle to achieving COVID-19 vaccination in older adults is easy access to COVID-19 vaccination locations (Bhanu et al., 2021). A large number of older adults people with transportation problems causes older adults to have to walk further to the location of the COVID-19 vaccination (Malesza & Bozym, 2021). With the physical decline of older adults, older adults need a place and location for the COVID-19 vaccination that is easily accessible. As the closest support system for older adults, the family can help with the COVID-19 vaccination process by preparing transportation and assisting with the vaccination location. The availability of transportation by ensuring the availability of adequate vaccination centres for older adults is a form of support that families can think of to facilitate easy access for older adults (Istina Dewi, 2021). In addition to transportation...
modes that are friendly to older adults, the availability of supporting facilities and infrastructure, such as safe road and pedestrian access for older adults, is an alternative solution that the government can facilitate in terms of ease of accessibility to vaccination locations (Fuchs et al., 2021).

Another support program that can be facilitated for older adults is to provide positive and readily accepted information (Malesza & Bozym, 2021). Lack of information about the importance of vaccination and misconceptions about side effects are significant barriers for older adults to be vaccinated (Bhanu et al., 2021). Concern about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine is the highest perception older adults feel. Older adults need factual information to understand the need for COVID-19 vaccination in their age group (Fadda et al., 2021). Accurate information about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccinations conveyed by families can increase confidence and influence older adults to carry out vaccinations. This happens because the family has a psychological closeness that can affect older adults’ thinking (Martini et al., 2021).

Conclusion
Families provide various support to older adults in the COVID-19 vaccination process, including emotional, accessibility, and informational support. Providing the correct information accompanied by solid motivation from the family is an essential key to the success of the COVID-19 vaccination process in older adults. Ease of accessibility is the main supporting factor beyond the motivation and information provided by the family. Strengthening the family as the primary motivator for the older adults in the COVID-19 vaccination process in older adults is expected to be a support system for the older adults to want to be vaccinated.

Limitations of the study
The number of journal databases is the author’s limitation in obtaining articles to be reviewed. In addition, the number of articles that can be accessed in full is another limitation the author must face.

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