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## Does an educational intervention improve parents' knowledge about immunization? Experience from Malaysia (Article)




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### Abstract

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**Background:** Parents' knowledge about immunization is an important predictor factor for their children's immunization status. The aims of this study were to assess parents' knowledge and to evaluate the effect of a short educational intervention on improving parents' knowledge of childhood immunization. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study using a pre- and post-test intervention survey of a single group was conducted among Malaysian parents. Changes in total knowledge score before and after the intervention were measured using a validated questionnaire. The intervention consisted of an animated movie and lecture using simple understandable language. Wilcoxon signed ranks test and the McNemar  $\chi^2$  test were applied to compare the differences in knowledge before and after the intervention. **Results:** Seventy-three parents were enrolled in this study; the majority were mothers ( $n = 64, 87.7\%$ ). Parents' knowledge about childhood immunization increased significantly after the intervention compared to the baseline results ( $p < 0.001$ ). There were significant differences between parents' knowledge and their educational level and monthly income ( $p < 0.001$  and  $p = 0.005$ ), respectively. **Conclusions:** A short educational intervention designed for parents had a positive effect on their knowledge about immunization. Educational interventions targeting parents with low levels of education and income are needed. Further studies investigating the actual effectiveness of such interventions on immunization rates and statuses are required. © 2014 Awadh et al.; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

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