



EDITORIAL

Prons and Cons of Covid19 Vaccination: Bangladesh Perspectives

AFM Arshedi Sattar

Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, National Institute of Neurosciences & Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh

COVID-19 becomes one of the biggest health concern. Physicians are repurposing drugs like chloroquine and remdesivir to treat COVID-19 patients with no clear remedies to treat the disease. In parallel, research institutes in collaboration with biotech companies have identified strategies to use viral proteins as vaccine candidates for COVID-19. As various models for SARS-CoV-2 are under testing phase, biotech companies have bypassed animal studies and has moved to Phase I clinical trials. In view of the present outbreak, this looks a justified approach, but the problem is that in the absence of animal studies, we can never predict the outcomes in humans. The animal models are critical for vaccine development. Another issue of using animal model is the ethics of using animals for research.

The COVID-19 pandemic is unlikely to end until there is global roll-out of vaccines that protect against severe disease and preferably drive herd immunity. Regulators in numerous countries have authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines for human use. Yet having licensed vaccines is not enough to achieve global control of COVID-19 they also need to be produced at scale, priced affordably, allocated globally so that they are available where needed, and widely deployed in local communities. In the Health Policy, potential challenges are facing to success in each of these dimensions and discuss policy implications. To guide our review, we developed a dashboard to highlight key characteristics of 26 leading vaccine candidates, including efficacy levels, dosing regimens, storage requirements, prices, production capacities in 2021, and stocks reserved for low-income and middle-income countries. Although specific data points are subject to change as the pandemic response progresses, the dashboard will continue to provide a

useful lens through which to analyze the key issues affecting the use of COVID-19 vaccines.

Several COVID-19 vaccines have now been authorized or approved for human use, with many more in the late stages of clinical development. Yet having licensed vaccines is not enough to achieve global control of COVID-19: they also need to be produced at scale, priced affordably, allocated globally so that they are available where needed, and widely deployed in local communities. These four dimensions of the global vaccination challenge are closely related, and the development and production steps have important implications for pricing, allocation, and public confidence. Mechanisms are needed to ensure the affordability and sustainable financing of COVID-19 vaccines in low-income and middle-income countries.

Bangladesh has joined the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine race with the announcement by the producer of its Bongavax. In December 2020, the country's Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) permitted Dhaka-based Globe Biotech Ltd., the developer of Bongavax, to produce the country's first locally made COVID-19 vaccine. Previously called Bancovid, the vaccine has been included in the draft landscape of the World Health Organization's (WHO) COVID-19 vaccine candidates. Bangladeshi public health experts have welcomed the development as a positive boost to the country's COVID-19 response.

Bangladesh has so far approved for emergency use only the Covishield vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in collaboration with the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca. Dhaka has ordered 30 million Covishield doses, of which the

first batch of 5 million is expected to arrive from India in the month of February. Reports on severe side effects of the Covid-19 vaccine in the international media and misinformation made many people distance themselves from the vaccination drive initially. Health Services Division Secretary of Bangladesh has assured to get 131,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine (Covishield) under the Covax program at the end of February. Under the Covax program, Bangladesh will get 12,792,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine in the first half of 2021. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic caused by severe acute

respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the most formidable challenge to humanity in a century. It is widely believed that prepandemic normalcy will never return until a safe and effective vaccine strategy becomes available and a global vaccination programme is implemented successfully.

Journal of Current and Advance Medical Research, January 2021;8(1):1-2

Cite this article as: Sattar AFMA. Prons and Cons of Covid19 Vaccination: Bangladesh Perspectives. *J Curr Adv Med Res* 2021;8(1):1-2