

## Response: COVID-19 vaccination uptake among pregnant individuals

We thank Drs Sriwijitalai and Wiwanitkit for their thoughtful letter. We believe that their concerns are in line with our own. We want to highlight the importance of the potential adverse outcomes associated with COVID-19 vaccination reluctance among pregnant individuals and stress the need for dynamic strategies that guarantee access to high-quality information and vaccine platforms to streamline the uptake and availability of COVID-19 vaccines for the obstetric population.

The study by Rodriguez-Sibaja et al.<sup>1</sup> aimed to assess COVID-19 vaccination status among pregnant people and factors associated with its uptake. Of note, COVID-19 has been a leading cause of maternal mortality and severe morbidity in the study's setting over the past few years. It is worth emphasizing that there was no information about vaccination status or factors associated with COVID-19 vaccination uptake in the region at the time the study was conducted. In such circumstances, this population-based cross-sectional study provided valuable information to help delineate a strategic plan to optimize vaccine uptake and coverage among pregnant individuals. Likewise, previous reports have used similar study designs, as mentioned in the reviews by Kalafat et al.<sup>2</sup> and Badell et al.<sup>3</sup> Otherwise; we agree with Drs Sriwijitalai and Wiwanitkit that cross-sectional studies are subject to several limitations, and that future prospective longitudinal studies may overcome such constraints while allowing the analysis and evaluation of additional variables of interest such as changes in the intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic and factors associated with vaccine hesitancy in any given timeframe.

In conclusion, continuing attention to COVID-19 vaccination among vulnerable populations such as pregnant people will enhance vaccine uptake and coverage strategies and improve maternal health. We thank Drs Sriwijitalai and Wiwanitkit for their detailed

contribution to the discussion and expert perspective on this critical topic.

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