

Can Vaccines Alone Bring an End to This Pandemic?

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Dear Editor,

Recently we passed through the covid-19 pandemic. We were eagerly waiting for the covid-19 vaccine but after the development of a vaccine, what benefits did we get?¹ In the era of vaccines, we want to give our input.

In current century as well as in previous centuries many pandemics have occurred, the majority of which are viral pandemics like smallpox, H1N1 influenza, and many more. Our previous generation faced that battle and won the war against those bugs. They were transmitted by either contact, droplet, Airborne, or environment route. Due to their high transmissibility nature, they easily crossed the origin country's borders and traveled to other parts of the world. To become secure from the disease we always expected a shield against the disease.

Vaccine concepts were given by Edward Jenner when they invented the first vaccine for smallpox. The vaccine can be prepared from a killed organism, a live organism that is made weaker by some procedures

in the laboratory so that protective antibodies are produced in the human or animal body. In each type of vaccine preparation, either humans or animals are getting infected and their body response gets the final vaccine version. During those research work, many human and animal lives were sacrificed in vaccine preparation with the hypothesis of saving other lives.

During the covid-19 pandemic, every person was waiting for the vaccine. They were alert for each step of vaccine trial updates. They were hoping that once the vaccine comes, it will make magic and the world will be free from the covid-19 virus which did not happen. The covid-19 pandemic begins in China in November 2019 and spread globally by March 2020. The Covishield vaccine trial was completed in December 2020 and the mass vaccination program started in January 2021 in India. After 3-4 months of the vaccination program, a new variant of the virus was identified which showed the virus also making an antidote/ Shield against the vaccine.

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We faced the second and third waves of the covid-19 pandemic in 2021 and 2022. If the vaccine is powerful why second or third wave occurred? There are various cases of reinfection of the covid-19 in humans even after successful vaccination completion.²

One of the leading covid vaccine production companies' chief executive officers Was infected with Covid-19 even after successful vaccination. If they are not secure from infection, how do we as common people rely upon that vaccine to end the pandemic?³ These are highly mutated organisms that can change their structure constantly and can greatly reduce the effectiveness of vaccines. None of the vaccines are effective against all type of the covid-19 virus and their mutation strains.⁴

At the time of the vaccination program, two doses were recommended and later it was increased to one more booster dose. Even after more than one and half years of vaccination, still, all the citizens have not been vaccinated. if we want to shield ourselves (protection) from the disease there are other ways also. Precaution is always better than cure. If we take precautions to prevent the virus from spreading, we are also secure from the disease. Another way is herd immunity. There are many people and healthcare workers who worked with the covid patient for a long time but many did not have a symptomatic infection, which shows that immunity power which is enough to battle the infection. Also, people who get an infection once, have more chances to develop antibodies in their body which become their herd immunity.⁵ Still, there are a few cases reported of covid-19 daily which ruled out the vaccine's effectiveness.

So, we conclude that vaccines solely are not effective and contact precautions and herd immunity are also important. Better to rely on your body's immune system instead of a laboratory-prepared shield with questionable efficacy. We are not against vaccines; but against the thought process that vaccines end the covid-19 pandemic. Keep one thing in our mind, that virus will never be dead, somewhere they are alive. When they get a chance to mutate themselves, they will make their new variants and come again.

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