



# JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE AND BIOSCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (JPSBR)

(An International Peer Reviewed Pharmaceutical Journal that Encourages Innovation and Creativities)

## A Survey on awareness on Swine flu in Industrial Town Vapi: an Initiative

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### ABSTRACT:

The swine flu is an infectious disease caused by virus belongs to the family Orthomyxoviridae, which is endemic in populations of pig. These virus strains are known as swine influenza. For preventing spreading of this kind of contagious airborne disease it is important to educate people about its origin, outbreak, spreading .distribution, transmission of swine flu and basic treatment. An awareness leaflet to spread awareness in people of industrial town Vapi and well prepared Questionnaire for assessing the awareness about the disease. To evaluate the result a percentage analysis method has been used. 75% people were aware about the Swine Influenza virus.35% people were aware about its causes and 34% about contingency and basic information about treatment available for the virus. 84% people were aware about the government facility for the patients affected by Swine influenza virus.74% were willing to help others in spreading awareness to others. This kind of awareness program can be helpful in such area to enhance the further basic update and information about various contagious diseases which will be helpful to increase the level of healthcare system.

**KEYWORDS:** Orthomyxoviridae, Swine flu, Awareness, contagious disease, Swine influenza.

### Article history:

Received 30 Sept 2014

Accepted 17 Oct 2014

Available online 01 Jan 2015

**Citation:** Patel D, Bharadwaj A, Dave K, Chauhan H, Desai C. A Survey on awareness on Swine flu in Industrial Town Vapi: an Initiative. *J Pharm Sci Bioscientific Res.* 2015; 5(1):128-130.

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### INTRODUCTION:

The swine flu is an infectious disease caused by virus belongs to the family Orthomyxoviridae, which is endemic in populations of pig. These virus strains are known as swine influenza.<sup>1</sup> Even though the infection of swine flu does not affect regular human population; there are certain sporadic cases of infections in humans. Generally, these cases occur in those working with poultry and pigs, especially those individuals who are heavily exposed to this type of animal, and are at higher risk of infection if they carry any viral strain that is also capable to infect humans. Importantly, the H1N1 influenza virus outbreak in year 2009 in humans and is known as swine flu swine influenza, apparently is not caused by a swine influenza virus only. Actually the origins of the new strain are unknown and the World Organization for Animal Health mentions that this strain has been isolated from pigs. It is transmitted easily between humans, due to an ability attributed to a mutation which is not yet identified, and makes it through the saliva, by air, by close contact between the mucous membranes or through hand-mouth transmission due to contaminated hands. This strain because, in most cases the symptoms were mild, and infected persons are recovered successfully without the need for medical care or medication use antivirals.<sup>1</sup>

**Transmission to humans:** People who work with poultry and swine or have intense exposures are at increased risk of infection with this virus as it is endemic in these

animals which constitute a population of human hosts in which zoonosis and reassortment can co-occur.<sup>2</sup> Vaccination of these workers against influenza and by surveillance and assessment on awareness for new influenza strains among this population may therefore be an important public health concern.<sup>3</sup> Transmission of influenza from swine to humans who often work with swine was documented in a small survey study performed in 2004.<sup>4</sup> Other professions at particular risk of infection are veterinarians and workers who is involved in processing of meat and all, although the risk of infection for both of these groups is lower than that of farm workers.<sup>5</sup>

**Symptoms in Humans:**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention swine flu H1N1 virus are similar to those of influenza and of influenza-like illness in general. Clinical symptoms like fever, sore throat, cough, body aches, chills, headache, and fatigue. In the year 2009 outbreak of virus has shown an increased percentage of patients reporting diarrhea and vomiting.<sup>6</sup>

**Prevention and Precautions:**

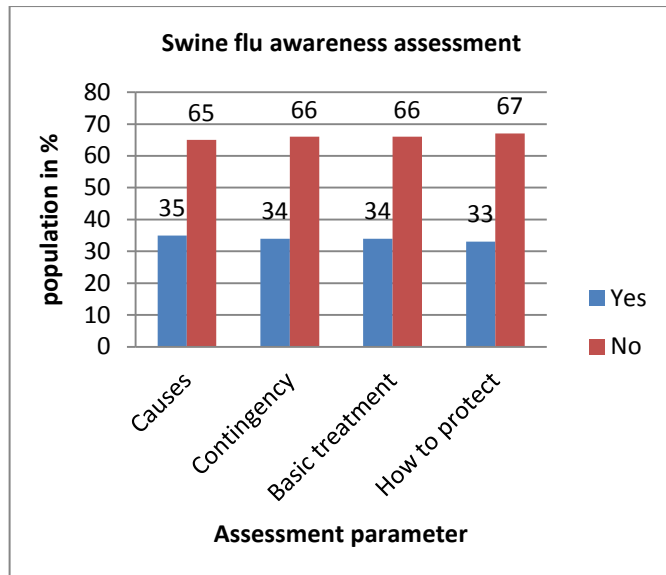
The nose and mouth must be covered while coughing or sneezing. Hygiene and cleanliness must be maintained by washing hands properly with soap and water. Touching the eyes, nose or mouth without washing hands must be avoided. A doctor must be consulted immediately, and most importantly in case of person is having flu-like symptoms are required to observe carefully. Face masks and gloves must be used when moving out in crowded places or nursing any ill patient. If a person is ill, then they must avoid contact with other people and stay isolated. One should keep their surroundings clean and maintain hygiene and sanitation.<sup>7,8</sup>

**METHODOLOGY:**

As we know there are more chances of transmission of the disease from person to person so the method of survey was designed in such a way that person to person communication by spreading awareness and assess the awareness in them might be the better way to develop health care system so 100 participants were communicated and received filled questionnaire form with the feedback about the survey program. A percentage analysis method has been used for the analysis of the results.

**RESULTS:**

75% were aware about the swine influenza virus. The result on awareness on causes, contingency and basic available



**Figure1. Result of awareness about causes, contingency, basic treatment & how to protect.**

treatment option and how to protect for the swine influenza virus is given in following figure1. In the study program 60% were male and 40% female participants were involved from which 17% of them haven't gone through the complete Immunization. In the involved participants 67% were in the age group of 15-35 years of age which means majority of youth is involved in the awareness program. 84% participants were aware about the facility provided by the government for the swine influenza virus management. 74% participants were willing to know and learn more about the Swine Influenza virus and ready to help in spreading awareness to others.

**CONCLUSION:**

Although 75% were aware about the swine influenza virus but still low percentage on the clear idea about the causes and contingency and treatment or how to protect from the virus is still can be improved by this kind of informative based awareness program which will be helpful in developing better health care system. This program is an initiative to support government in developing better health care system in India.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Authors would like to thank the involved participants for their cooperation and support and also like to thank Dr. Atul M. Desai, Dhanvantari Charitable Trust, Vyara. and at last to the clinical Pharmacist and founder of Aware3 Concept Mr. Chirag Desai for all the support and encouragement.

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