[[Note N. Dunn: Please kindly note that I have used US English for spelling/grammar]]

The year 2020 will be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic and its momentous impact worldwide on people, quality of life, and the economy. The year ended with a glimmer of hope when the FDA approved the use of the COVID-19 vaccination for people aged 16 and above.

The vaccine campaign was a success, with a rapid decrease in the number of new infections, despite the easing of lockdown restrictions, in countries with a high vaccination uptake. However, restrictions on activities affecting the unvaccinated population (mainly teenagers and children), both in and out of school, were still required. Epidemiological data show that the susceptibility toward COVID-19 and transmission of the disease among children reduces with decreasing child age. The disease tends to manifest itself as asymptomatic among children, resulting in a more favorable outcome than that demonstrated among adults, however, the recent emergence of new variants does increase the risk of transmission and the severity of the disease among children [1], [2], [3].

In May 2021, the FDA and CHMP approved the use of the COVID-19 vaccine for teenagers aged 12 years and above. Some countries are considering extending the vaccine population to children aged 12 to 16 years old, in the expectation that this step will assist in controlling the pandemic – a matter of extreme importance following the spread of the new pandemic variants. Increasing the vaccination rate will assist in achieving both herd immunity and global economic recovery. To apply such a strategy, it is important to understand the reluctance among parents to have their children vaccinated, given that parents are usually the decision-makers.

In Israel, the vaccination campaign was launched in mid-December 2020 and by June 3, 2021, 59.35 percent of the population had been fully vaccinated. The peak in the 7-day moving average of new daily infections reached 8,624 on January 17, 2021; this number gradually decreases as the percentage of the vaccinated population increases, reaching 15 new daily cases by the beginning of June 2021. As a result of the Delta variant, the weekly average for new cases increased to 450 in early July. Based on a national Israeli observational study, vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection, COVID-19-related hospitalization, and COVID-19-related deaths exceeded 96% across all age groups. There is a positive correlation between vaccination rate and age: for persons aged 70 years and above the rate exceeded 95%, for 50–70 years the rate is around 90%, and for 20–40 years around 80%. The percentage of people vaccinated in Israel reached a plateau over the previous two months, with an increase for the first vaccine of only 2.3% from 60.7% on April 1, 2021 to 63% on June 1, 2021 [4], [5], [6]. This phenomenon is also present in other countries, presumably as the result of vaccine hesitancy. Vaccine hesitancy is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite the availability of vaccination services [7]. The reasons for vaccine hesitancy vary by country and are vaccine-specific, indicating a need to enhance the capacity of national programs to identify local casual factors and develop appropriate strategies [8], [9].