

BÖLÜM 9

COVID-19 PANDEMİ SÜRECİNDE AŞI KARARSIZLIĞI

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GİRİŞ

İnsanlık tarihini etkileyen en önemli buluşlar arasında yer alan günümüze kadar milyonlarca insanın hayatını kurtaran aşilar, dört yüz elli milyondan fazla kişinin hastalanmasına, altı milyondan fazla kişinin hayatını kaybetmesine (2022 Mart) ve toplumsal alanda pek çok soruna neden olan Yeni Korona Virüs (COVID-19) pandemisinin her geçen gün ağırlaşan yükünden de kurtulmanın temel anahtarıdır (1-4). Bu nedenle tüm dünyada bilim insanları COVID-19 aşilarının geliştirilmesi için seferber olmuş ve tarihte daha önce görülmemiş bir hızla başlayan aşı geliştirme çalışmaları sayesinde, ilk aşilama kampanyaları Aralık 2020'de acil kullanım izni ile başlamıştır. Halen dünyada pek çok ülkede aşı çalışmaları hız kesmeden devam etmektedir (4-6).

Kısa sürede COVID-19 aşilarının geliştirilmiş olması önemli bir adım olmakla birlikte pandeminin sona ermesi için toplum bağışıklığının oluşması gerekir (7,8). Toplum bağışıklığı sağlamak için nüfusun ne kadarının aşillanması gerektiği hastalığın yayılma hızı (R0) ve aşiların etkililiğine göre değişir. Yayılma hızı R0 2,5-3,5 iken, %100 etkili ve yaşam boyu bağışıklık sağlayan bir aşinin toplumsal bağışıklık sağlayabilmesi için risk altındaki toplumun en az %60-72'sinin aşillanması gerekir. Ancak aşiların etkililik oranı düştükçe aşillanması gereken nüfus oranı artar.

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SONUÇ

Sonuç olarak COVID-19 pandemisiyle mücadelede aşılar önemli bir araç olsa da, aşı kararsızlığı toplumsal bağışıklığın önünde en önemli engellerden biridir. Aşı kararsızlığı zamana, bağlama, aşıya ve birey/ grup özelliklerine göre değişim gösteren karmaşık bir süreçtir. Toplumda aşılama oranlarının artırılması ancak belirli aralıklarla ulusal, bölgesel ve tüm alt grupları kapsayacak şekilde aşı kararsızlık nedenlerinin ortaya çıkarılması ve nedenlere yönelik kamu politikaları düzeyinden, bireysel düzeye kadar uzanan çok boyutlu ve kapsamlı girişimlerin uygulanmasıyla mümkün olacaktır.

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