

# **Internet use and e-health literacy : an Israeli perspective on the vaccination dilemma / Romina Goldman**

## **Abstract**

### **Objective**

The aim of this research was to examine whether there is a relationship between the increase in parents' level of involvement in the decision as to whether to vaccinate their children or not and the increase in searching for and filtering information from online electronic sources. For this purpose we examined the gap between the perceived e-Health literacy of parents during the seeking research process about vaccines, the level of use of different types of online electronic resources and the level of knowledge regarding vaccinations.

### **Methods**

The research was conducted among 210 Israeli parents of children who were born after 2000, using a quantitative method. We inquired about attitudes towards vaccination in the past and future, level of use of online electronic resources, types of online electronic resources, level of knowledge about vaccination, perceived e-health, and demographic characteristics.

### **Results and Conclusions**

The results show that most non-conformer parents who hesitated whether to vaccinate their children or not, decided to refuse to vaccination. This group believes to have the abilities to search for and filter information from online electronic resources, such as forums, social networks, official websites, and alternatives websites. However, most parents who refused to vaccinate were not able to answer vaccine related scientific questions. Opposite to these findings, conformer parents who vaccinate without hesitation, had more knowledge about common vaccine related issues and had a high perceived e-Health literacy. In addition, conformer parents surfed more the web 1.0 sites than web 2.0 sites. Results confirm our primary hypothesis, which claimed that the rise of online electronic resources for health research issues was not accompanied by an improvement in the cognitive skills needed for searching the web on health issues such as vaccination.

**System No.**

002425996