

The Vaccine Dilemma

In this short poem, a physician processes the dilemma of caring for patients who won't take advice when it comes to vaccination.

SWEETY JAIN, MD

Patients I have known
for many years
Have treated them and their
families
We have bonded in what is a true
“patient-doctor” relationship
Here is my dilemma —
I have asked myself often
How should I feel when my
patients say they will not get
the vaccine?

I pause to think

I feel helplessness

I feel frustration

I do not feel anger or dislike

I tell them my thoughts and
evidence-based belief

I try my best to convince them

And then ... I let it go ...



As I drive home

A thought stays with me:

Do I stop feeling affection for
the patient?

No! I cannot do that

I am sure my colleagues feel
this way

We are all helpless

We have no solution

Just want these difficult days
to pass.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Jain is an associate professor for Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida and is director of global health in the Department of Family Medicine at Lehigh Valley Family Medicine Residency in Allentown, Pa. Author disclosures: no relevant financial relationships.

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