CHAPTER: 11

AWARENESS & COMPLIANCE OF IP PRACTICES AMONGST HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS OF PRIVATE SHCOS IN KOTA

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INTRODUCTION

In the healthcare system, infection prevention and control (IPC) play a pivotal role, ensuring the safety of health workers by minimizing the risk of exposure to diseases. The prevention of infections not only reduces the likelihood of high-risk infections but also contributes to cost reduction and the maintenance of health system quality, ultimately leading to health improvement. Preventing the acquisition of diseases by humans is of utmost importance. Health care workers are actively engaged in enhancing the practices and behaviors of the health system to achieve freedom from avoidable infections and ensure the safety of both patients and healthcare providers [1]. In an examination aligning with standard safety measures, a study on the knowledge and behavior of residents in the field of obstetrics and gynecology found that knowledge regarding standard precautions was nearly 100%, while overall observed compliance was at 89%.

The effectiveness of adherence to standard insurance measures varied based on the population studied, with greater effectiveness observed in individuals other than residents. The adherence to standard precautionary measures showed an inverse relationship with the length of experience. According to survey findings, reasons for non-adherence to standard insurance included time constraints (64%), workload burden (54%), and the assumption that the patient is not infected (34%) [2]. This research aimed to evaluate the knowledge and attitudes regarding standard and confinement safety measures among healthcare workers at the University of Geneva Hospitals in Switzerland. A sample comprising 1500 nurses and 500 doctors in the designated hospital predominantly provided correct answers to at least 10 out of 13 knowledge-based questions. Reasons identified for non-compliance with guidelines were considered significant [3]. Another study on the practice of universal standard precautions among healthcare workers in Abeokuta metropolis, Ogun State, Nigeria, found that out of 435 respondents, approximately one-third always recapped used needles. Compliance with non-capping of used needles was highest among trained nurses and lowest among doctors. A minority of respondents (56.5%) had never worn goggles

during deliveries and surgeries. The provision of sharps containers and screening of transfused blood by the institution studied were consistently high [4].

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To investigate their practice towards standard precautions.
2. To identify specific areas that may need further attention in the continuing education of healthcare workers.
3. To study different types of IP practices in a private small healthcare organization

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was designed as a descriptive, cross-sectional study with a duration spanning three months. The type of data collected was quantitative in nature, and the data collection procedure involved the use of a structured, self-administered questionnaire. The sample area targeted Station House Officers (SHOs) of Kota. Data entry was performed manually, and the subsequent analysis was carried out using bar charts and pie charts in MS Excel and Google Forms. The sampling technique employed was convenience sampling, and a sample size of 50 was selected for the study.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The concept of infection control is ancient but remains crucial as it constitutes the foundation of medical practice, ensuring the safety of both patients and healthcare professionals. While awareness is vital, it alone is insufficient to achieve safety goals without the proper implementation of standard infection control protocols. A general awareness survey among healthcare workers regarding infectious diseases revealed that approximately 70% of them had knowledge of infections.

The study findings aligned with existing literature, specifically a study at the University of Geneva Hospitals, Switzerland, which indicated that healthcare workers, including medical students, scored

75% in terms of knowledge regarding infection control. Additionally, the study observed that there were no significant differences in knowledge based on age, profession, or years of experience.

The study emphasized the significance of handwashing and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as fundamental aspects. Both investigations revealed a deficiency in knowledge and adherence to basic infection control protocols among healthcare workers. It is recommended that protocols be enhanced through educational interventions, specifically formal training for healthcare workers. While enhancing knowledge is essential, efforts to enhance adherence and encourage the utilization of personal protective equipment (PPE) should give priority to elements such as the immediate accessibility of gear, thorough training encompassing fit testing, and proficient communication practices. The present investigation observed that the adoption of PPE is considered a standard procedure for infection control. Despite healthcare workers possessing adequate knowledge, there is a noticeable deficiency in adherence and compliance with safe practices.

CONCLUSION

Healthcare workers face an increased risk of Needle Stick Injury while serving in healthcare facilities. There is a potential for exposure to COVID-19 patients, and lack of awareness may lead to infection transmission. The present circumstances offer opportunities to organize healthcare programs for Healthcare Workers (HCWs) focused on infection control and prevention, contributing to patient safety and enhancing the efficiency of the healthcare system in a cost-effective manner. The study reveals a deficiency in awareness and understanding of infection safety measures among HCWs. Additionally, hospitals are not keeping up with advancements in technology and procedures that could benefit both the health of healthcare workers and patient care.

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