

To assess the knowledge regarding medico legal issues among Doctors.

Dr. Lokendar Pal Singh¹, Dr. P.C.Vyas²

¹Senior Demonstrator, ² Senior Professor

¹Department of Forensic Medicine, Government Medical College, Bharatpur

²Department of Forensic Medicine, S.N. Medical College, Jodhpur

Correspondence Author: Dr. P.C. Vyas, Senior Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, S.N. Medical College, Jodhpur

Type of Publication: Original Research Paper

Conflicts of Interest: Nil

Abstract

Background- Medical negligence is defined as absence of reasonable care and skill, or willful negligence of a medical practitioner in the treatment of a patient, which cause bodily injury or death of the patient.

Methods- This cross sectional descriptive study was carried out to assess the knowledge regarding medico legal issues among Doctors.

Results- 52% doctors had adequate level of knowledge and 42.00% doctors had moderately adequate knowledge

Conclusion- Compulsory one month rotatory posting in Forensic Medicine Department should be introduced in their intern training period to increase the awareness and knowledge about Medico Legal issues.

Keywords- Knowledge, Medico Legal Issues, Doctors.

Introduction

Medical negligence is defined as absence of reasonable care and skill, or willful negligence of a medical practitioner in the treatment of a patient, which cause bodily injury or death of the patient. Ethics has been defined as "the moral principles that govern a person's behavior or how an activity is conducted" and medical ethics as "the branch of knowledge concerned with moral principles".¹

Medical profession nowadays has changed its motive of service to commercialization, due to which functioning and services of hospitals and clinics have also undergone changes. The knowledge of medical negligence and medical ethics are essential for maintaining the patient doctor relationship and prevent the commercialization of the profession². The public awareness regarding the negligence and ethical conduct by medical practitioners and the complaints against doctors and the number of medical litigation by unsatisfied patients is rising day by day Ignorance of the law cannot be used as a ground for escaping punishment. Therefore doctors should familiar with the regulations and laws dealing with medical practice. Training period is the crucial time for developing the ethical views and awareness in young doctors.³

Material and Methods

This cross sectional descriptive study was carried out to assess the knowledge regarding medico legal issues among doctors. After obtaining ethical clearance 50 doctors were selected by using non-probability convenience sampling technique. The data collected from sample by using interview method and documented. Statistical analysis was performed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Inclusion Criteria

Doctors who are Both male and female nurses.

Exclusion Criteria

- 1. On leave during the time of data collection.
- 2. Not willing to participate in the study.

Results

Majority of staff doctors 18 (36%) are between the age group of 25-30 years, 41(82%) doctors are male, 6 doctors have < 3 year of experience.

Table no. 1. The level of knowledge regarding medico legal issues in Doctors.

Level of knowledge	No. of nurse	Percentage
Inadequate	3	6
Moderately adequate	21	42.00
Adequate	26	52.00
Total	50	100.0

52% doctors had adequate level of knowledge and 42.00% doctors had moderately adequate knowledge.

Discussion

An MLC is a case of injury/illness where the attending nurse, after eliciting history and examining the patient, thinks that some investigation by law enforcement agencies is essential to establish and fix responsibility for the case in accordance with the law of the land ⁴. Many doctors are apprehensive in handling such cases may be because of fear, unwarranted laws and regulations, attending the court, harassment by the lawyers and questions by police personnel ⁵.

With the increase in use of internet and social media, there is an increase in awareness among public on subject of ethical conduct of medical practitioners. Hence there are more cases against doctors. This issue is of immediate concern to medical fraternity. Hence all doctors must be aware of legal and ethical implications of clinical practice.

Conclusion

Compulsory one month rotatory posting in Forensic Medicine Department should be introduced in their intern training period to increase the awareness and knowledge about Medico Legal issues.

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