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Knowledge of Health Care Personnel Regard to HIV and AIDS

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Abstract

Background- Health care workers are key players in the prevention and management of blood-borne infection, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Methods-A total of 100 health care workers in Rjasthan were included in the study. The health care workers in primary health care were from: general practice, occupational medicine, gynecology, dentistry and laboratory were included.

Results- Respondents had deficient knowledge about the modes of HIV transmission. The majority of true answers were found relating to HIV transmission by blood, sperm/vaginal secretions, and sweat. The majority of false answers were found relating to HIV transmission by saliva/tears, urine, and feces.

Conclusion-The results indicated a need for educational initiatives of HIV and AIDS for medical staff.

Keywords- Health care workers, HIV infection, knowledge

Introduction

Health care workers are key players in the prevention and management of blood-borne infection, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) ¹. A number of occupational exposures to the patients' blood and body fluids occur each year in health-care settings ². Workers

and employers are urged to take advantage of available engineering controls and work practices to prevent exposure to blood and other body fluids . A number of studies regarding HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, risk perception and safe practice among health personnel have been conducted 3 .

There is limited literature available on previous studies in Asian countries. The aim of this study was to assess HIV/AIDS-related perception of professional risk, knowledge, attitude and practice of health care workers in Rajasthan.

Materials and Methods

A total of 100 health care workers in Rjasthan were included in the study. The health care workers in primary health care were from: general practice, occupational medicine, gynecology, dentistry and laboratory were include. The data were collected by questionnaire containing 36 questions and distributed by trained interviewers. Questions covered demographic characteristics, risk perception and prevention, daily professional activities and practices, knowledge, attitudes and education of health care personnel regarding HIV and AIDS. Data were analyzed with SPSS software package (version 22.0).

Results

The sample consisted of 76 female and 24 male. A sample included a total of 80 nurses and 20 laboratory technicians. The mean age of the respondents was 41.2 ± 8.6 years. Duration of employment in the current job was 9.08 ± 6.24 years.

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Correct answer	No. persons	Percentage
regarding mode	responds	
of transmission		
Blood	95	95.00
Urine	42	42.00
Semen	49	49.00
Sweat	52	52.00
Faces	45	45.00
Type of exposure		
Cut	41	41.00
Needle injury	55	55.00
Skin contact	61	61.00
Through mucosa	33	33.00

Respondents had deficient knowledge about the modes of HIV transmission. The majority of true answers were found relating to HIV transmission by blood, sperm/vaginal secretions, and sweat. The majority of false answers were found relating to HIV transmission by saliva/tears, urine, and feces.

Discussion

Our study revealed gaps in the knowledge of health care workers about HIV infection. We found that medical personnel in Rajasthan had deficient knowledge about the modes of HIV transmission. Insufficient professional education regarding HIV and AIDS has been previously reported ⁶⁻⁹.

The results of a number of studies ^{10,11}, suggested that a high proportion of health care workers believed that they were at risk of acquiring HIV infection through

occupational exposure, which is very similar to our findings. Our data regarding high perception of professional risk of acquiring HIV infections among health care workers who were exposed to patients blood and other body fluids, and those who had previously treated HIV-positive patients, are in accordance with results from other studies.¹².

Conclusion

The results indicated a need for educational initiatives of HIV and AIDS for medical staff.

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