

Assessment of students, knowledge regarding AIDS in Medical Technical Institute in Erbil City

تقييم معارف الطلبة عن مرض الايدز في المعهد التقني الطبي في مدينة اربيل

***Dr. Kareem F.Aziz Al-Barzingy/** Lecturer of Community Health Nursing, Erbil Medical Technical Institute, Foundation of Technical Education/Erbil

**** Dr. Nazar Ali Sheren/** Assistant Professor of Community Health Nursing, College of Nursing, Hawler Medical University/Erbil

*****Dr. Radhwan Hussein Ibrahim /**Assistant Professor of Community Health Nursing, College of Nursing, Mosel university/Nineveh

الخلاصة :

خلفية البحث: يعتبر متلازمة نقص المناعة المكتسبة واحدة من اهم المشاكل الصحية في القرن الواحد والعشرين ويعتبر من الامراض المنتشرة وبائيا والذي يهدد حياة العالم. ولان الايدز يعتبر من الامراض المتميزة والحديثة الظهور منذ عام 1981. هنالك تقريبا 60 مليون شخص مصاب في العالم بفيروس HIV وان 90% منهم من الاصابات موجودين في الدول النامية. العراق لايزال يعتبر من الدول الاقل الاصابة بالمرض وحسب ماورد في تقرير الاحصاء العالمي.

الاهداف: ان الهدف من الدراسة هو لتقييم معلومات طلاب المعهد الطبي الفني حول مرض الايدز.
طريقة العمل: اجريت دراسة دراسة وصفية في المعهد الطبي التقني وقد شملت الدراسة 92 من طلاب المرحلة الاولى من مختلف التخصصات وقد تم تقييم معلومات الطلاب حول الايدز من خلال عدة حقول وجمعت المعلومات للفترة من 1-9-2009 ولغاية 29-1-2010 وقد استخدم اسلوب المحاور في جمع المعلومات.

النتائج: اشارت نتائج الدراسة بوجود نقص في معلومات الطلاب بغض النظر عن كافة متغيرات العينة مثل العمر والجنس وامكان السكن والعوامل الاجتماعية والاقتصادية).

الاستنتاج: ان معلومات طلاب المعد الطبي كانت ضعيفة بسبب عدة عوامل ومنها قلة المعلومات في المناهج الدراسية وقلة في التنقيف الشخصي وقلة اهتمام الطلاب بمعرفة معلومات جديدة حول الايدز

التوصيات: اوصت الدراسة بضرورة اعداد فصول في المناهج الدراسية لطلاب المعهد حول الايدز واساليب الوقاية وتمت التوصية ايضا بضرورة طبع وبوسترات ونشرات حول اهم الحقائق عن الايدز

مفاتيح الكلمات: الايدز، المعلومات، طلاب المعهد الطبي

Abstract

Background:

The acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is one of the most common health problems of 21st century and has been pandemic disease that threatens the world population. Since AIDS was recognized as distinct new disease entity in (1981), nearly 60 million individuals worldwide have been infected by HIV, of those more than 90% were in developing world. According to international statistic Iraq is still among the low prevalence continues for AIDS.

Objectives: The aim of this study was included to assess knowledge of students in Medical Technical Institute regarding AIDS.

Methods: cross sectional study was conducted in Medical institution for ninety-two of first year students from different specialties. Knowledge of students regarding Aids was evaluated through number of domains. The data were collected from 1/9/2009 - 29/1/2010. An interview technique method was used for data collection.

Results: The study indicated that there was deficient knowledge among study sample about AIDS regardless of different variables such as (age, gender, residency, social factors and economic status).

Conclusion

knowledge about AIDS among students in Medical Technical Institute were poor related to many factors included lack of adequate information in the content of curriculums, lack of self education, and lack of interest of some of students to acquire new information about AIDS

Recommendation:

The study recommended that to enhance chapters about Aids knowledge and prevention methods, and to distribute some booklets, and posters to clarify all facts about Aids

Key words: AIDS, knowledge, Medical Institute students

INTRODUCTION:

The acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is one of the most common health problems of 21st century and has been pandemic disease that threatens the world population. Since AIDS was recognized as distinct new disease entity in (1981), nearly 60 million individuals worldwide have been infected by HIV; of those more than 90% were in developing world ⁽¹⁾. Iraq is still among the low prevalence continues for AIDS. Between April 2003 and December 2007, 52 new HIV/AIDS were reported 16 of them were Iraqi ⁽²⁾. Sexual route appeared an important mode of transmission ⁽³⁾. The epidemiological pattern of AIDS has changed dramatically in the past two decades since the discovery of the disease. Asia has been considerable spreading of HIV in southern and south-eastern countries where more than 6.7 million people were living with HIV by the year 1998 ⁽⁴⁾.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To assess knowledge of students in Medical Technical Institute regarding AIDS
2. To identify difference in knowledge regarding Aids and other demographic characteristics.

METHODS:

Descriptive study was conducted in Medical institute in Erbil City for ninety-two of first year students from different specialties (X-ray, Anesthesia, assist dentist, and medical assistant).which they are students from first year in the institute, and nursing students were not included in our study sample.

Knowledge of students regarding Aids was assessed through number of domains based on extensive review regarding (causes, mode of transmission, signs and symptoms, clinical management, diagnosis, and medical and nursing management). The data were collected from 1/9/2009 - 1/1/2010. An interview technique method was used for data collection. desctptive and inferential statistical were used as method of data collection.

RESULT:

Table (1): Demographic characteristics of the study samples

Variable	Numbers	%
Age:		
18-20	73	79.3%
21-23	19	20.7%
Gender:		
Female	52	56.5%
Male	40	43.5%
Social status:		
Single	83	90.2%
Marred	9	9.8%

Table (1) shows that the majority of the students were between ages group (18-22), they are males, and most of them were single.

Table (2) knowledge of students about nature of Aids

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Infection	36	39.2
Chronic disease	34	36.9
Immunity deficiency	22	23.9

Table (2) shows that, the majority of the answers were considered Aids as either infection or chronic disease while 23.9% only of them considered it as immunity deficiency.

Table (3) knowledge of students about causes of Aids

Variable	Frequency	%
Bacteria	55	59.7
Virus	12	13.1
Physical	12	13.1
Environmental	4	4.3
Psychological	6	6.5
Social	3	3.3

Table (3) shows that, the majority of the studied (59.7%) believed that bacteria is the main causes of Aids and only 13.1% of them believed that it's because of virus.

Table (4) knowledge of students about methods of transmission

Variable	Frequency	%
Bodily fluid	3	3.3
Injection drug use	8	8.7
Homosexual	18	19.6
Blood transfusion	11	11.9
Children born with mother infected health care worker with needle stick injury	4	4.3
Respiratory infection	8	8.8
Others (kissing,touching,nutritions)	20	21.7
	20	21.7

Table (4) shows that most of them mentioned that Aids is transmitted by respiratory, and other factors such as kissing, touching and nutrition's which represents (21.7%), while only 19.6% of them believed it's transmitted by homosexual.

Table (5) knowledge of students about clinical manifestation

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Respiratory (chest pain, S.O.B.	8	8.7
Gastrointestinal : loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting	12	13
loss of body weight	20	21.7
Weakness	7	7.6
Fever	18	19.7
Bleeding (mouth,urine,skin)	27	29.3

Table (5) shows that 29.3% of the study group said that bleeding are the most clinical manifestation, and (21.7%) of them said that loss of body weight are one of clinical manifestation.

Table (6) knowledge of students about diagnosis and screening

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Blood test	59	64.2
Sputum test	6	6.5
Urine test	12	13
x-ray	15	16.3

Table (6) shows that (64.2%) of the student were considering blood test are most valuable methods for diagnosis and screening and (16.3%) believed that we can diagnosis through X-ray.

Table (7) knowledge of students about medical and nursing management

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Vaccination	18	19.6
Medication	15	16.3
Surgery	20	21.7
Health behavior management	9	9.78
Giving antibiotics	30	32.6

Table (7) shows that (32.6%) of the students believed that antibiotics are the most efficient way for medical management ,and(21.7%) they said that surgery is one way for management, and (16.3%) believed that it could be treated with medication.

Table (8) Independent sample test for nursing student's knowledge about AIDS according to demographic variable

variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	P-value
Age:				
18-20	8.178	2.955	0.175	0.861
21-22	8.053	1.899		
Gender:				
Female	8.654	3.319	2.020	0.05
Male	7.500	1.617		
Social status:				
Single	8.000	1.913	1.916	0.109
Married	9.555	6.839		

These results indicated that there are not significant differences in nursing student's knowledge about AIDS according to age, social status, and address. While there are significant, differences in nursing student's knowledge about AIDS according to gender variable at significant level (0.05), the female students knowledge were better than male students knowledge.

DISCUSSION:

The results of the study revealed that majority of the sample were young age, male student's, and they are single, their knowledge about Aids were poor, most of them were considered it as infection disease while only 23.9% of them were considering it as immunity deficiency syndrome, a study conducted in India by ⁽⁵⁾, was aimed to assess the existing level of knowledge of college students about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). A pretested closed-ended questionnaire was administered to 336 college students available. Overall level of knowledge about AIDS was found to be high and these results are disagree to our study which shows that their knowledge were poor and may be because students are not considering Aids as a big health problems in our country. There were some misconceptions in knowledge regarding transmission, prognosis and prevention.

A study conducted in Higher Secondary School students to assess the knowledge about AIDS and attitude towards AIDS patients. Only 13.5% senior school students and 16.2% teachers had clear knowledge regarding AIDS - its general aspects, transmission and prevention ⁽⁶⁾.

Only 19.6% they believed the disease are transmitted through homosexual intercourse this result is congruence with in Africa to students in Artist college which reveals that over 40% of subjects believed that most people with AIDS in Africa are homosexual also majority of study group considered that disease could be transmitted through respiratory, nutrition, touching, and kissing and the respondent shows that their knowledge regarding mode of transmission were poor. ⁽⁷⁾. In Zimbabwean

secondary school pupils drawn from 12 schools about Knowledge of AIDS and self-reported sexual behavior was studied among 1532 (893 male, 633 female). Over 40% of respondents did not know that many HIV seropositive individuals look healthy. Nearly 40% of participants believed that HIV can be contracted from toilet seats and 54% of subjects believed that mosquitoes can transmit HIV⁽⁸⁾.

Regarding clinical manifestation the majority of them 29.3% believed that bleeding, through mouth and skin, and 21% agree that loss of body weight is most important clinical manifestation.

Table (6) shows that 64.2% of the study groups thought that blood exam are the most valuable test for diagnosis, and also some of the sample said that it could be screen through x-ray. Finally most of them agree that giving antibiotics are most common methods medical management which considered 32.6% of the sample, and also believed that it could be prevented through surgery, and vaccination, and this result shows how their knowledge were poor ,and only about 10% of them believed in health behavior management. Another survey was agree with our study which done about knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about AIDS in San Francisco, they found that there was marked variability in knowledge across informational items, particularly about the management and precautionary measures to be taken during sexual intercourse which may reduce the risk of infection⁽⁹⁾.

CONCLUSION

The student's knowledge about Aids were weak regarding the most of domain of causes, diagnosis, mode of transmission, clinical manifestation ,and medical and nursing management. There were no significant differences among students knowledge about Aids and demographic characteristics except for gender, which shows that female students knowledge was better than male.

RECOMMENDATION:

The study recommended the followings:

1. Emphasizing to enhance in the curriculum of Medical Technical Institute and should be included some chapters about Aids knowledge and prevention methods.
2. Health education program should settle for students to raise their awareness about Aids.
3. Distribution of booklets, posters, leaflets, and pictures clarifying all the facts about the disease.

REFERENCES:

1. Alwan A. (2004).Health in Iraq. The current situation, our vision for the future and areas of work 2nd ed. Baghdad ministry of health.
2. AIDS Research center, IRAQ, (2008).National HIV/AIDS Control program in Iraq.
3. Al-Serouri AW, Takioldin M, Al-Dobaibi Homage A, (2002).Knowledge attitude and beliefs about HIV/AIDS in Sana'a Yemen East Mediator Health J 8(6):706-15.
4. Kumar, A. (2008): HIV/AIDS knowledge, sexual relations and practices.American journal of nursing ,vol.3, No.2.

5. Leili S, Elham S, and Farkhondeh, (2008): Population –based Survey of HIV/AIDS knowledge attitudes in general public, Bandar-Abbas Iran,pakJMedSci 24(6):838-844
6. Tavoosi A, (2004): knowledge and attitude towards HIV/AIDS among Iranian students .BMC public health 4:17.
7. UNAIDS (2008).Report on the global AIDS Epidemic.8th report .Geneva: WHO.
8. UNAIDS, WHO (2003).Report on Global HIV/AIDS. Epidemic. Geneva: WHO.
9. Diclemente, J Zorn, and L Temoshok. (1986) Adolescents and AIDS: a survey of knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about AIDS in San Francisco. American Journal of Public Health December: Vol. 76, No. 12.