Abstract

Original Article

Health Workers’ Knowledge, Attitude and Practice towards Hepatitis B Infection in Northern Nigeria

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Abstract

Background: Infection by hepatitis B virus is one of the many challenges in public health today and the tenth leading cause of mortality worldwide. Research has shown that health-care personnel are at higher risk of acquiring the disease than the general population.

Aim: The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between knowledge, attitude and practice among health workers towards hepatitis B infection in Northern Nigeria.

Methods: This study used a cross-sectional survey with self-administered questionnaire to gather information from an Ear, Nose and Throat health-care professionals in a tertiary hospital in Northern Nigeria. The data collected was coded and analyzed using SPSS software version 20.

Results: A similar numbers of males, 49.5% (53/107), and females, 50.5% (54/107) took part. The overall correctly answered knowledge questions by the professions was 76.9%. A one-way ANOVA between participants showed that there were significant difference between the profession groups in terms of knowledge scores (F4, 102 = 11.5, P< 0.001) and in terms of practice scores between the groups (F4, 102 = 4.1, P< 0.01); however, there was no significant difference in attitude between the professional groups (F4, 102 = 0.6, P= 0.68). Multivariate analysis showed that health attendants had the best practice score and did not differ significantly to Doctors (β = −0.1, t = −0.9, P= 0.40).

Conclusion: The findings suggest that there is a gap in knowledge and lack of compliance to infection control and preventive measures among health-care professionals. There should be an increased in awareness through campaigns geared towards educating health-care personnel on the dangers of hepatitis B infection.

Keywords: Health care workers, Hepatitis B infection, prevention and control, Knowledge, attitude and practice, Developing countries