



The knowledge of paramedical students about sexually transmitted infections

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Objective

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are a global health problem. Nursing and obstetrics students are the future workers whose role in health education and promotion is undeniable. Hence we became interested in evaluating their knowledge of STIs.

Methodology and research tools:

This was a prospective, cross-sectional, quantitative and descriptive study, conducted in the Higher Institute of Nursing Sciences and the Higher Institute of Health Sciences and Techniques of Tunis over the period of March 24, 2021 to April 18, 2021. The target population included 568 students. The information was collected via a self-administered questionnaire.

Results

Our study population sample was mainly composed of 72% women versus 28% men. The average age of our sample was 21 years old.

Results

The majority of students (95%) have already heard of STIs. The main source of information was the academic background of these students (79%), followed by the media (15%). Students rated their knowledge as fairly good and good in 37% and 34% of cases, respectively. Only 5% admitted having very good knowledge and 2% with zero knowledge. For their knowledge of the modes of transmission of STIs: 98.4% retained vaginal penetration, 69.1% for anal penetration against 40.7% for oral sex. The best-known germ was the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (87.8%) followed closely by syphilis (82.9%). The least known agent was *Neisseria Gonorrhoeae* (Gonococcus), identified only in 28.4% of cases.

Discussion

We compared our results to a Spanish study in which students have heard about these infections from their friends (35%), health professionals (31%), medical studies (25%), parents (20%) and internet (16%). (1) These findings emphasized the importance of the early introduction of the sexual education in our teaching programs and the parents' responsibility. (2) A few students rated their sexual knowledge as good or very good, compared to medical students (91%) or law students (88%) (1). In terms of transmissions, most of students did not know about the maternal-fetal pathway. (3) The knowledge of the germs was almost comparable to a Malaysian study in which the HIV was the most known but Chlamydia (26%) and Trichomoniasis (21%) were unpopular. (3)

Conclusion

The knowledge of health students regarding education on sexually transmitted infections needs a boost in order to improve the involvement of awareness of the whole population.

Références

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