



Research Article

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The level of awareness of medical students of the internship course of Shahid Sadoughi Hospital of Yazd about AIDS

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Abstract

AIDS is an immune system deficiency disease. Still, the best way to control AIDS is prevention and awareness about this disease. The aim of the present study was to measure the level of knowledge of medical interns about AIDS. The present study was a cross-sectional study. A questionnaire was used in this research. The studied community included medical interns in 2019 and 2020. Finally, SPSS was used for analyzing. This study was conducted on 211 medical students. There was no significant difference in the knowledge level of the interns in terms of gender. The score of the questionnaire of the students who passed the infectious part was higher. In the current study was proved that the sex and marriage of the students was not effective on the awareness about AIDS.

Keywords: AIDS, Awareness, Medical interns.

INTRODUCTION

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is an immune system disease caused by human immunodeficiency virus with impaired cellular and humoral immune function [1]. Infection with this virus gradually causes the occurrence of opportunistic diseases by decreasing T+CD4 cells [2].

Most people infected with HIV are clinically asymptomatic and become aware about their disease when a serologic test is performed [3]. Therefore, since asymptomatic people infected with HIV can transmit the virus to others, this disease spreads quickly [4].

The best option to deal with AIDS is prevention and awareness. In general, studies have shown that accurate knowledge and sufficient awareness about AIDS can reduce risky behaviors in the young generation [5].

On the other hand, the prevalence of some disorders such as sexual and mental diseases such as depression, etc. among students makes them prone to addiction and AIDS [6,7].

Thus, the present study was conducted to investigate the level of knowledge of medical interns about AIDS.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was as cross-sectional. The studied population was 211 medical interns in 2019 and 2020 that were randomly included in the study. This study was the result of a general medicine thesis that was approved by the ethics committee of the university. After explaining the objectives of the study to the participants, assuring the confidentiality of the information and obtaining consent, the questionnaires were filled by the medical interns of Shahid Sadoughi Hospital. Failure to fill in the questionnaire completely or correctly and withdrawing from further participation in the research were considered as exclusion criteria.

A questionnaire containing 18 questions about AIDS was used in this study to evaluate different dimensions of knowledge and attitude about this disease. The answers were designed in the form of 5 points (completely disagree, disagree, do not know, agree and completely agree).

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Finally, SPSS (v. 22) was applied for data analysis.

RESULTS

Of the 211 students who entered the study, 110 were men (52%) and 101 were women (48%).

The age mean of the students was 25.5 ± 0.7 years. The lowest age was 24 and the highest was 28 years.

There was no significant difference in the level of knowledge of interns based on the two age groups of the study ($p=0.854$) (Table 1).

Table 1: Knowledge of medical interns about AIDS based on age group

Age group (year)	Score mean	Frequency
24-25	75.29 ± 4.73	90 (42.7%)
26-28	75.64 ± 4.8	121 (57.3%)

Also, no significant difference was found in terms of gender ($p=0.377$) (Table 2).

Table 2: Knowledge of medical interns about AIDS based on gender

Frequency	Score	Gender
Female	75.44 ± 4.96	101 (48%)
Male	75.54 ± 4.9	110 (52%)

Statistically, the level of awareness based on the marital status of students was not significant ($p=0.461$) (Table 3).

Table 3: Knowledge of medical interns about AIDS based on marital status

Marital status	Score	Frequency
Single	75.45 ± 4.73	183 (86.7%)
Married	75.71 ± 5.31	28 (13.3%)

Based on the score of the questionnaire, the students who passed the infectious part obtained a higher score and this difference was significant ($p<0.0001$) (Table 4).

Table 4: The effect of passing the infectious part on the knowledge of medical interns about AIDS

Status of Passing the infectious part	Score	Frequency
After infectious part	76.62 ± 3.95	113 (53.6%)
Before infectious part	74.18 ± 5.35	98 (46.4%)

DISCUSSION

In the current study, men were more than women. There was no significant difference in the level of awareness of interns about AIDS based on age, gender and marital status. The medical interns that passed the infectious part got a greater score with a statistically significant difference toward interns that no passed this part.

A study was conducted in 2016 on 400 students with the aim of evaluating knowledge about AIDS. In this study, female students had more knowledge, but the difference was not significant based on gender [8].

Another study was conducted on 259 university students in China. In this study, gender had no significant relationship with knowledge about AIDS, and medical students had the most knowledge among all of students [9].

A study in Iraq was done among medical and dental students. Medical students had more awareness about AIDS. Awareness scores were not considerably related to marital status, sex and age of students [10].

CONCLUSION

According to the results of the current study, the age of the medical interns, their sex and marriage did not affect their awareness of AIDS, but passing the infectious disease course increased the students' awareness. Therefore, passing the infectious part is a main parameter in informing students about AIDS.

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Conflict of Interest

Authors state that they have no conflict of interest.

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