

Evaluation of knowledge , perception, and attitude about Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever among healthcare workers of Emam khomeini hospital of Ardebil from march 2020 to march

Abstract

Background: Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a common viral disease of animals and humans with severe mortality and morbidity, which is more common especially in less developed countries. This disease is transmitted from domestic animals through tick bites. Human-to-human transmission occurs through contact with the blood, tissue and fluids of patients infected with the virus. Health workers who treat CCHF patients are another group at risk of infection. Although recently training programs for treatment staff have increased their awareness of this disease, it is not known to what extent this awareness is used in their clinical work and to what extent it has reduced the rate of disease transmission. Therefore, it is necessary to evaluate the level of knowledge, attitude and perception of the treatment staff as a high-risk group in endemic areas of the disease, including Ardabil city.

Aim: The objective of this study was to investigate the knowledge, attitude and perception of health workers of Imam Khomeini Hospital in Ardabil regarding CCHF disease.

Materials and methods: This cross-sectional study evaluated the health workers of Imam Khomeini Hospital in Ardabil in terms of Knowledge, attitude and perception towards CCHF disease from march 2020 to march 2021. Doctors, nurses and paramedics completed the pre-prepared questionnaire created by the researcher. This questionnaire evaluated health workers in three areas: knowledge, attitude and perception. To prepare the questionnaire, help was taken from reviewing similar articles and consulting with infectious disease specialists.

Results: 350 medical personnel of Imam Khomeini Hospital in Ardabil completed the questionnaire related to CCHFV. The most age group of participants in the study was 20 to 30 years old with 133 people (38 %). 201 participants (57.4 %) were women. 196 (56%) of the participants had 1-10 years of work experience. 174 (49.7%) of the participants were doctors with a professional doctorate, 135 (38.6%) were nurses with a bachelor's degree, and 41 (11.7%) paramedics with a bachelor's degree. 94 people (26.9%) mentioned the history of

passing the training course related to Crimean-Congo fever. None of the participants mentioned the history of infection in themselves or their relatives. The average scores of the participants in the CCHF knowledge dimension was equal to 13.63 with a standard deviation of 3.31 (scoring was possible in the form of correct answers from 24 questions). In attitude and perception dimensions, with 6 and 7 items respectively, the average score of response was 2.27 and 2.17 (the scores of the attitude and perception dimensions range from 0 to 4 according to the scale Likert was). General knowledge, attitude and perception about Crimean-Congo fever disease in age groups, different genders, type of marriage and types of hospital jobs were not significantly different.

Conclusion: In general, the knowledge, attitude and perception of high-risk HCPs reported in our study are lower than expectations. There is a serious need to organize training courses and occupational safety for all HCPs working in the native areas of the province to encourage them to use reliable scientific resources. Meanwhile, special attention should be given to less experienced nurses to improve their knowledge.

Key words: Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever - knowledge and attitude - health workers- Ardabil