

Abstract

Introduction: Youth is one of the most significant periods of life from the point of view of medication abuse. Young people who use drugs in their early teenage years are more likely to use drugs later in life, and the rate of direct use and associated difficulties and problems increases steadily. Education and information is the most basic component first level prophylaxis, Therefore, the present study assesses the level of awareness, attitude and necessity for further education of medical students regarding medication abuse.

Material and methods: The information of 350 students was collected through a valid questionnaire including three sections, students' personal and social characteristics, knowledge about the consequences of drug abuse, including: opium, hashish, sedatives, etc., and students' attitudes towards drug abuse. All data were assessed and finally analyzed by SPSS22 software.

Findings: The average \pm standard deviation of the age of the examined students was 25.57 ± 5.41 years. Major number of students ($n=184$ (52.0%)) had an Academic average of 15-17. In terms of educational level, the most cases related to doctoral and undergraduate students 240 (68.6%) and 103 (29.4%) respectively.

Among the studied students, only 78 (22.3%) had a history of drug abuse among their family. The mean \pm standard deviation of students' knowledge and attitude regarding drug abuse was 92.88 ± 7.71 and 126.69 ± 14.25 respectively, There was an inverse and significant correlation between knowledge and attitude with the age of students ($P<0.001$).

Discussion: The findings of the present study showed that medical students have an almost acceptable awareness and attitude towards drug abuse, which is significantly ($P<0.05$), affected by factors such as economic status, academic grade, parents' occupation, parents' education, having an addict in the family, field of study and the place of residence, considering the consequences of drug abuse today, the need for further training and education courses is still felt.

Key Words : Drugs - Abuse - Awareness - Attitude