

Abstract

Evaluation of the knowledge, attitude and practices of Ardabil dentists about transmission and infection control of hepatitis B and C in 1392.

Introduction:

While improvements in the infection control, occupational exposure has been claimed to be an important means by which infection is transmitted and dental health professionals are considered to be at high risk in this regard. The possibility of cross-contamination between the dentist and the patient in form of patient to a dentist is 25000 in 1 and vice versa is 2000 times more. Among more than 20 types of pathogens that transmitted by contact with infected blood and body secretions, Hepatitis B and C are considered as most important and dangerous infection. Hence dental professional's knowledge of HBV and HCV infections, the probable routes of its transmission during dental treatment and the most effective preventive strategies against it may be a great help in preventing the spread of this infection between dentist, patients and community.

Objective:

This study designed to evaluate the level of knowledge, Attitudes and practice of the dentists who are working in Ardabil about hepatitis B and C infections.

Materials and Methods:

It was descriptive cross-sectional study of dentists practicing in Ardabil. Dentists' knowledge, attitude and performance about transmission and infection control of hepatitis B and C were examined.

The questionnaire consisted of two main sections. The first consisted of questions about participant's sociodemographic status and the second section consisted of fourteen questions on dentist about knowledge, attitude and performance regarding to HBV and HCV infections. The data was collected and entered in the SPSS v.16 software. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics in the form of graphs, tables, χ^2 and Pearson analytical tests. The level of statistical significance was defined as $P < 0/05$.

Results:

67/8% of participants were male, and 23/2% were female. Most of the dentists (86/7%) have had a history of dealing with HBV and HCV patients. 94/4% of mentioned dentists were aware of not availability of hepatitis C vaccine. 82/2% of above dentists had received 3 doses of vaccination against hepatitis B and the others 2 or less.

51/1% of dentists were aware of the possibility of contamination to HBV through saliva. 93/3% of dentists believed that after contact with an infected needle, the risk of HBV transmission is more than of that of HCV transmission. 94/4% of dentists said they had enough knowledge about proper control after contact with contaminated needles and 73/3% of them were confident about their knowledge of infection control procedures. When the dentists were asked about their willingness to treat HBV or HCV infected patients, 50% of them answered they would treat such patients and 4/4% of them said that not treat this patients and 45/4% accepted them on limited conditions. 35/6% of dentists were aware of personal protective measure when dealing with persons suspected HBV and HCV disease. In the case of type of reaction in contact with HBV contaminated needles, 53/4% of dentists mentioned checked their antibody titer status and if necessary, receiving booster vaccination. 23/4% of dentists were aware of the remains of HBV in the plaster casts.

Conclusion:

Results of this study showed that Ardabil Dentists' knowledge, attitude and performance about transmission and infection control of Hepatitis B and C is in average (not good) rate. This finding highlights the necessity of about continuous infection control education.

Keywords:

Dentist, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice.