

Abstract

Title: *Knowledge and attitudes of general dentists involved in the Ardabil city regarding evidence-based dentistry*

Background and Aim

Education of dentists and professionals of dental sciences is a major issue to perform evidence-based approach to oral health care; however, limited studies have been done to assess the level of knowledge and attitudes regarding evidence-based dentistry in the country. This study assessed the knowledge and attitudes of dentists involved in the Ardabil city regarding evidence-based dentistry.

Materials and Methods

In this descriptive cross-sectional trial, 78 dentists (46 males & 29 females) were selected and assessed by means of a self-administered questionnaire about principles and methods of EBD. Sum of correct answers to knowledge questions was regarded as the knowledge scores. The participants' responses to the attitude questions received 0-5 scores and sum of these scores was regarded as attitude score. The knowledge and attitude scores were analyzed by t-test while the scores were subjected to one-way analysis of variance regarding their workplaces. The association between the age and knowledge and attitude scores was determined by Pearson coefficient ratio.

Results

The mean knowledge scores of the dentists in Ardabil city were 9.17 ± 4.63 and their mean attitude scores were 23.53 ± 4.8 . Reverse insignificant correlations were found between the age and dentists' knowledge scores ($r = -0.18$; $p = 0.13$) as well as their age and attitude scores ($r = -0.22$; $p = 0.06$). No significant differences were found regarding knowledge ($p = 0.25$) and attitude scores ($p = 0.31$) of the male and female dentists about evidence-based dentistry. Furthermore; workplace did not significantly affected knowledge ($p = 0.25$) and attitude score ($p = 0.26$) of the studied dentists.

Conclusion

According to the study results; general dentists working in the Ardabil city had moderate knowledge about evidence-based dentistry requiring more educations in this field; however; they showed positive attitudes about different aspects of EBD.

Key words

Evidence-based dentistry, Knowledge, Attitude, General dentist