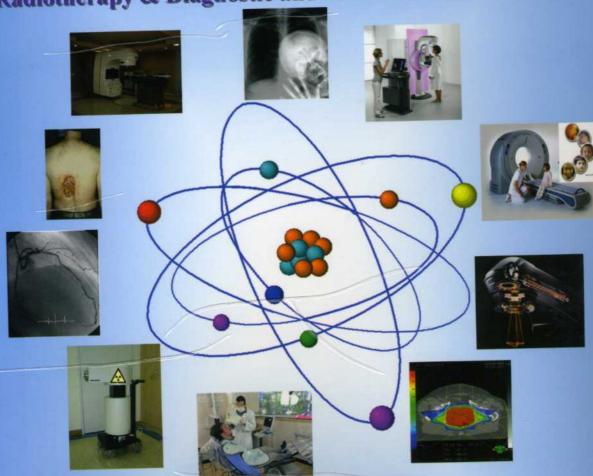






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Medical student's knowledge about ionising and ion-ionising radiation

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Introduction

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Some of patients remain concerned about radiation exposure and the health risk associated to it. A physician can answer all questions regarding radiation and can satisfy their patients. Medical students can acquire this capability during their clinical rotation in the radiology department. The study is to assess knowledge, hazards, misconceptions and misunderstanding among medical students regarding equipments using ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.

Materials and Methods

A questionnaire was administered to medical students of three medical college of Iran. 150 students who had completed their clinical rotation in the radiology department were included in this study. The obtained data was analyzed using statistical software.

Results

About 36% of the students accepted that objects in the X-ray room emit radiation after an X-ray procedure and the same percentage agreed that protective measures should be taken while performing an ultrasound and that dangerous radiation is emitted from good quality microwave equipment. One-third students viewed that gamma rays are more hazardous than X-rays while the same percentage agreed that intravenous contrast material used in angiogram is radioactive. 56% students agreed that nuclear material used in medicine is potentially explosive while 18% of students were in the opinion that MRI emits ionizing radiation. 32% of the students believe that a radiologist have a shorter life span as compared to other medical specialist.

Conclusions

The majority of medical students have limited knowledge about various aspects of radiation sources, the risk involved and its protection. Better teaching methods and programmes are required for medical students in the subject of radiology.