

Research Day-2023
Accepted Abstracts for the Oral Presentations



Abstract Code: RD-2023-1-14

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Title:

The general knowledge about first aid among students at Shaqlra University.

Introduction:

Students having first aid skills can greatly influence the outcome of accidents and injuries. The current study was carried out to access knowledge regarding first aid among medical and non-medical students at Shaqlra University.

Methods:

This observational cross-sectional study was conducted between May 2022 and April 2023, covering medical and non-medical students at Shaqlra University. An online structured questionnaire was derived from the Saudi Red Crescent Authority. The questionnaire captured data on socio-demographic characteristics and knowledge of first aid skills. The online Raosoft software for sample size calculation was used to determine the sample size. 276 students were required at 95% confidence limits with a 5% margin of error. Frequency and percentages were calculated for categorical data, and an odds ratio with a 95% confidence interval was calculated to assess the relationship between demographic characteristics and knowledge of first aid. The P-value of < 0.05 was considered significant.

Result:

Of the 276 students, 176 (63.8%) were males and 100 (36.2%) were females. 115 (41.7%) and 161 (58.3%) were medical and non-medical students respectively. Knowledge regarding first aid on hypoglycemia (2.52 (1.42-4.46); $P = 0.00^*$), sunstroke (2.46 (1.37-4.41); $P = 0.00^*$) and cardiac arrest (2.39 (1.33-4.29); $P = 0.00^*$) was significantly higher in medical students compared to non-medical students. Furthermore, the correct first step in case of collapse (4.27 (1.81-10.03); $P = 0.00^*$) was also significantly higher among medical students. First aid in neck injuries (1.45 (0.85-2.48); $P = 0.16$), and CPR on a child (1.08 (0.67-1.74); $P = 0.74$) were equally known to medical and non-medical students.

Conclusion:

Overall, medical students processed good knowledge of first aid compared to non-medical students. However, certain areas in the knowledge and practice did not show any difference between the two groups. The study recommends that workshops regarding first aid should be carried out at regular intervals to keep the students well-abreast with the knowledge and practice of first aid.

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