

Evaluation of knowledge, attitudes, and practice of medical residents and nurses in Shiraz University of medical sciences regarding chronic pain management

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Background and Aims: Pain is among the most common complaints of patients who seek medical care. It can adversely affect every aspect of patient's daily activity. This study was designed to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes, and practice (KAP) of clinicians regarding chronic pain management in Shiraz, Iran.

Methods: This cross sectional study was carried out in six different educational hospitals affiliated with Shiraz University of medical sciences (SUMS) in Shiraz. Cases were given a questionnaire, containing 46 questions and demographic characteristics, to fill out independently. The questionnaire was designed by corporation of pharmacotherapy department and center of excellence for electronic learning of SUMS. In total 213 health care professionals (114 nurses, 99 medical residents) were volunteered to take part in this study. Medical residents and nurses were grouped by their medical specialties and clinical wards that they worked, respectively. Specialties were grouped into internal medicine, rehabilitation, cardiology, psychiatry, pediatrics and neurology. For analyzing, the questions were grouped into three categories: narcotic drugs, non-narcotic drugs, and non-drug questions. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 17.0.

Results: The mean correct response rate was 43.13%±11.10. Medical residents scored 51.23% and nurses 36.10% (p<0.001). The percentage of correct answers varied among the questions from 1.9% to 89.7%. There was no statistically significant relation between field of specialties and the mean scores of medical residents. Narcotic drug questions received the lowest (39.02%) and non-narcotic drug questions received the highest (57.32%) correct response rate. Only 9.3% of participants believed that they received adequate education about pain management.

Conclusions: The findings of this study support the concern of inadequate knowledge, attitudes, and practice regarding to chronic pain management. We believe that further education and practical training will be needed for adequate pain management for clinicians in their initial education and continuing education programs.

Keywords: KAP study; Pain management; Iran