



AN ANALYSIS OF MEDICO-LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS

Dr. K. G. Juliana Jeyanthi

MD, Professor, Dept. of Forensic Medicine, Madurai Medical College, Madurai 625020, Tamil Nadu, India.

ABSTRACT

This collective study among Medical Students, has truly revealed the present scenario of Medical Students regarding their Medico-Legal Knowledge.

Summary: The study involved one hundred and forty four medical students. Questionnaire containing six questions determined to examine their Medico-legal knowledge was submitted to them, their answers collected and analysed.

KEYWORDS :

Introduction:

This is a cross sectional study done to update ourselves regarding Medico-Legal Knowledge of Medical students. The result of the study has genuinely emphasised the importance of Medico-Legal Knowledge for the Medical students.

Materials and Methods:

To know about the present status of Medico-legal knowledge among the medical students, a study was conducted among second year medical students in Madurai Medical college. A series of six basic Medico- legal questions were given in a paper and the students were asked to write the answers in the same paper. The answers were analysed and the results were as follows:-

The students participated were one hundred and forty four. The Questions were as follows:-

1. What is MLC?
2. What are MLC cases?
3. What is AR?
4. What are the cases that need AR entry?
5. Who enters AR?
6. What are the indications for Post-mortem?

Some students gave the correct answers, some wrong answers and some were ignorant.

The details are as follows:-

1) What is MLC?

Out of 144 students, 3 gave wrong answers = 3/144 = 2.08%
 5 do not know the answers = 5/144 = 0.03%
 The wrong answers were MLCertificate(2) and MLCConcern(1)
 Total number of ignorant students = 8/144 = 5.56%
 Correct answer - Medico Legal Case

2) What are MLC cases?

Out of 144 students, 1 gave wrong answer = 1/144 = 0.7%
 6 do not know the answers = 6/144 = 4.17%
 The wrong answer was cases involving doctors (1)
 Total number of ignorant students = 7/144 = 4.86%
 Correct answer – Assault cases, Unnatural deaths, Suspicious deaths, Sexual offences, Road traffic Accidents

3) What is AR?

Out of 144 students, 14 gave wrong answers = 14/144 = 9.72%
 5 do not know the answers = 5/144 = 0.03%
 The wrong answers were Accident Report(3) and Autopsy Report(6),
 Accidental case (1),
 Androgen Register Copy (1), Police Report (1), Cancer Drug Report (1),
 Requisition Copy (1)
 Total number of ignorant students = 19/144 = 13.20%
 Correct answer – Accident Register

4) What are the cases that need AR entry?

Out of 144 students, 31 gave wrong answers = 31/144 = 21.53%
 19 do not know the answers = 19/144 = 13.20%

The wrong answers were Cases to be done Postmortem(1), Cancer cases (1) and RTA(29)
 Total number of ignorant students = 50/144 = 34.72%
 Correct answer - Medico Legal Cases, Suspicious death/ brought dead cases

5) Who enters AR?

Out of 144 students, 27 gave wrong answers = 27/144 = 18.75%
 29 do not know the answers = 19/144 = 20.14%
 The wrong answers were Cases to be done traffic police(1), Head constable (5) and Police(7), Inspector(5), Sub-Inspector(7), Medical Officer who did autopsy (1), Magistrate(1),
 Total number of ignorant students = 56/144 = 38.89%
 Correct answer – Casualty Medical Officer

6) What are the indications for Post-mortem?

Out of 144 students, 5 gave wrong answers = 5/144 = 0.03%
 No wrong answers
 Total number of ignorant students = 5/144 = 0.03%
 Correct answer – Any unnatural death/suspicious death

Table-1
Total number of students - 144

Questions	No. of students who do not know the answer.		No. of students who gave wrong answers		Total number of ignorant students	
What is MLC?	05	0.03%	03	2.08%	08	5.56%
What are MLC cases?	06	4.17%	01	0.7%	07	4.86%
What is AR?	05	0.03%	14	9.72%	19	13.20%
What needs AR entry?	19	13.20%	31	21.53%	50	34.72%
Who makes AR entry?	29	20.14%	27	18.75%	56	38.89%
Which cases need Postmortem?	0	0	05	0.03%	05	0.03%
Total	64	44.45%	81	56.25%	145	100.7%

Figure-1
No. of students who do not know the answers

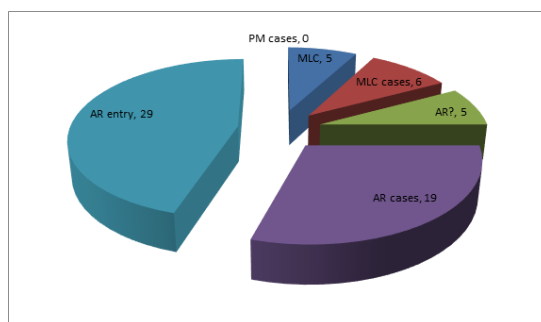


Figure-2 No. of students who gave wrong answers

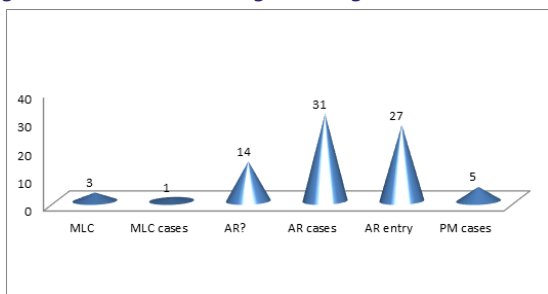


Figure-3 No. of students who do not know the answers in percentage

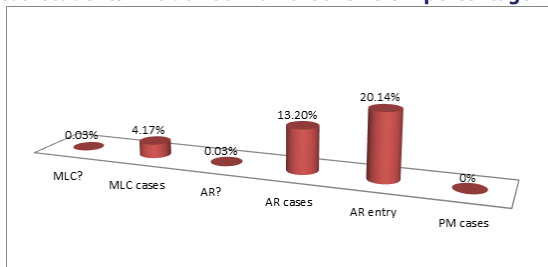


Figure-4 No. of students who gave wrong answers in percentage

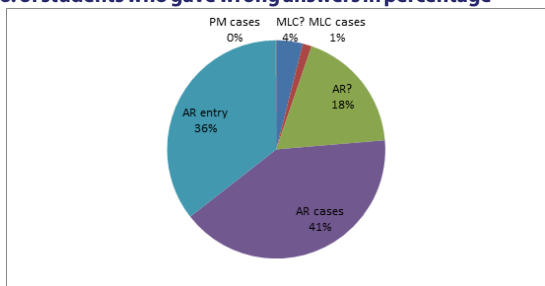
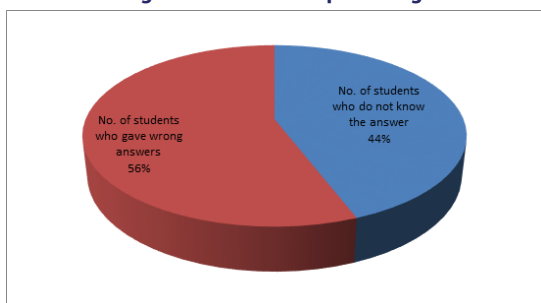


Figure-5 Total number of ignorant students in percentage



An overall analysis of the study:-

Forty four percentage of the students do not know the answer. This shows their ignorance.

So the students need Forensic Medicine classes, seminars and workshops enlightening on the basic knowledge regarding Medico-legal cases, Accident Register cases and Postmortems.

They must know about, what are the cases that need compulsory AR entry.

Students must also have compulsory knowledge about the cases that are to be labelled as MLC.

Moreover they should also be aware of the post-mortem indications and purpose of the same.

Conclusion:

Medico-legal knowledge is mandatory for medical students. The Medical field is facing lot of problems from the patients side. The patients are not accepting the realities. They are not in a mind set up to understand and accept the bitter, hard medical truths. Even for natural process of diseases, the treating doctors are being accused. So it is compulsory that the medical students, should possess the basic Medico-legal knowledge to defend and protect themselves.

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