



AWARENESS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) AMONG UNDERGRADUATE MBBS STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The rapid and extensive spread of COVID-19 pandemic has become a major cause of concern for the healthcare profession. The aim of this study is to assess the awareness of the COVID-19 disease and related infection control practices among undergraduate medical students. 128 respondents from Pune completed a questionnaire based survey on the awareness, knowledge and infection control practices related to COVID-19 infection. There is a need for regular educational interventions and training programs on infection control practices on COVID-19 across all healthcare professions.

KEYWORDS : Awareness Among Undergraduates, COVID-19, Pandemic.

INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus (MEARS-CoV) and recently noticed severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2). COVID-19, named after the year 2019 in which its occurrence is first traced, causing an ongoing outbreak of lower respiratory tract disease, was first identified in Wuhan, China and declared as a Pandemic by World Health Organisation, on March 11, 2020].

This Pandemic is leading to worldwide health problems, having its spread in 216 countries, disturbing the global socioeconomic conditions as well as spreading fears of short supply of essential food items, pharmaceuticals, and electronic gadgets. Dry cough, fever and sore throat are some mild symptoms developed in majority of SARS-CoV2 infected patients. However, some of the patients have developed different lethal complications including organ collapse, pulmonary oedema, severe sepsis and acute pneumonia.

Various social distancing measures - some short-term and long-term measures are proposed for prevention of the CoVID-19 at present and also to ensure personal, family and public hygiene in future.

OBJECTIVES

1.To assess the awareness about COVID-19 among undergraduate MBBS students.

2.To assess the effect of COVID-19 on the lifestyle of undergraduate MBBS students.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is purely based on the responses of 128 undergraduate MBBS students from Pune during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data was collected during April 2020. Majority of the respondents of this study are from Smt. Kashibai Navale Medical College and General Hospital. All the respondents of this study are medical undergraduate students or interns.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The study includes 128 undergraduate students from Pune. 49.2 percent of the respondents are males and 50.8 percent of the respondents are females. The age group varies from 18 to 25 years.

52 respondents are interns, 32 are from the third year, 19 from second year and 26 from the first year.

79.7 percent of the respondents think that RT-PCR is preferred and recommended for COVID-19 testing over Rapid Antibody Titre Testing.

89.8 percent of the respondents are willing to practice social distancing even after the pandemic is over.

87.5 percent of the respondents are of the opinion that increasing asymptomatic cases in India is bad news. And 12.5 percent of the respondents are of the opinion that the increasing asymptomatic cases in India is good news.

78.9 percent of the respondents think that routine wearing of masks by healthy people during COVID-19 outbreak is advisable. 21.1 percent of the respondents think that routine wearing of masks during COVID-19 is not advisable.

99.2 percent of the respondents are willing to practice cough hygiene even after the pandemic is over.

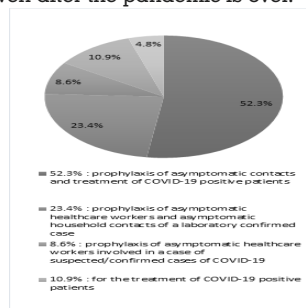


Fig. 1. What are the current recommendations for the use of HCQ according to ICMR?

Only 23.4 percent of the respondents know that the current recommendation of the use of HCQ according to ICMR is:

- 1)Asymptomatic healthcare workers involved in a case of suspected/ confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- 2)Asymptomatic household contacts of laboratory confirmed cases.

93.8 percent of the respondents know about the PPE to be used while working in the Corona ICU.

All 128 respondents are aware of the steps of hand hygiene.

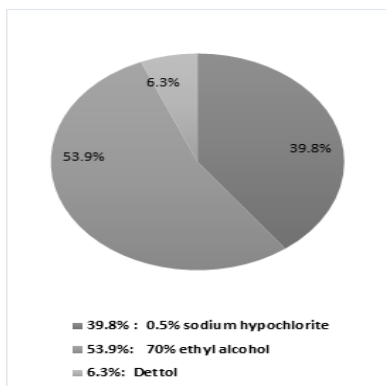


Fig .2. Which disinfectant should be used for the cleaning of surfaces/floors in homes COVID positive patients?

Only 53.9 percent of the respondents are aware that 0.5% sodium hypochlorite is used as a disinfectant for cleaning of surfaces/floors in homes of COVID positive patients.

After this pandemic 93.8 percent of the respondents are willing to modify their lifestyle (precautions to be taken while in the OPD or IPD). Majority of the respondents are willing to modify their lifestyle by doing the following:

- 1) Social distancing
- 2) Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing
- 3) Wearing of masks
- 4) Covering mouth while sneezing/coughing
- 5) Avoiding touching face without washing hands
- 6) Making patients with respiratory symptoms wear a mask
- 7) Following a healthy diet and routine exercises

SUMMARY

There is a need for regular educational interventions and training programs on infection control practices on COVID-19 across all healthcare professions. Occupational health and safety are of utmost importance for minimizing the risk of transmission to healthcare students.

This pandemic has also raised the awareness about various safe and hygienic practices among medical students. Many of these students are willing to adopt the practices as a part of their lives. These include: routine handwashing and sanitizing of hands, regular use of masks, social distancing practices, cough hygiene, healthy diet and exercise.

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