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A STUDY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS OF NEEDLE STICK INJURY AMONG NURSING OFFICERS AT SGPGIMS, LUCKNOW	KEY WORDS: Needle Stick Injury, Post-exposure Prophylaxis, Nursing Officers, Knowledge, SGPGIMS

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ABSTRACT	Background: Needle stick injury is a common occupational hazard for healthcare workers, particularly nurses. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) plays a crucial role in preventing transmission of blood-borne infections. Aim: To assess the knowledge regarding PEP of needle stick injury among nursing officers at SGPGIMS, Lucknow. Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 150 nursing officers selected through convenience sampling. A structured questionnaire with 20 items was used to assess knowledge. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results: Majority (66.7%) of participants had moderate knowledge, 25.3% had adequate knowledge, and 8% had inadequate knowledge. No significant association was found between knowledge and demographic variables. Conclusion: Most nursing officers had moderate knowledge regarding PEP of needle stick injury. Training programs and institutional guidelines are recommended to enhance awareness and practices.
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INTRODUCTION Needle stick injuries are a significant occupational hazard among healthcare workers. These injuries increase the risk of transmission of blood-borne pathogens such as HIV, HBV, and HCV. According to WHO and CDC reports, millions of such injuries occur annually, posing a serious health threat. In India, the burden is particularly concerning due to increasing patient load and inadequate safety practices. Nurses, being frontline caregivers, are highly vulnerable to needle stick injuries. While preventive measures are important, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is equally critical to reduce complications after exposure. Therefore, assessing the level of knowledge among nursing officers is vital. Objectives - To assess the level of knowledge regarding post-exposure prophylaxis of needle stick injury among nursing officers. - To find the association between knowledge and selected demographic variables. Review of Literature Several studies worldwide have highlighted the high prevalence of needle stick injuries among healthcare workers. Studies in Iran, Tanzania, and India revealed poor compliance with reporting protocols and insufficient knowledge about PEP. Omar et al. (2018) reported that 24% of laboratory workers experienced a needle stick injury. In India, similar findings were reported with over 60% of healthcare providers exposed at least once in their career. These studies emphasize the urgent need for education, training, and institutional protocols on PEP.	Tool: Structured questionnaire (20 MCQs) Scoring: Inadequate (<50%), Moderate (51–75%), Adequate (>76%) Data Collection: Conducted in October 2024 after obtaining ethical clearance and consent from participants. Data Analysis: Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean) and inferential statistics (chi-square test). RESULTS Demographic characteristics revealed that majority were female (53.3%), had B.Sc. Nursing qualification (62%), and 48% had 2–3 years of work experience. Knowledge levels: 66.7% moderate knowledge, 25.3% adequate knowledge, 8% inadequate knowledge. Chi-square analysis showed no significant association between knowledge level and demographic variables such as gender, qualification, experience, and area of work (p > 0.05). DISCUSSION The study findings indicate that most nursing officers had only moderate knowledge regarding PEP. This is consistent with studies conducted in other countries where healthcare workers lacked adequate knowledge and practices. The absence of significant association with demographic variables suggests that knowledge gaps exist across all categories. Institutional interventions such as workshops, in-service training, and policy enforcement are essential to improve awareness and response to needle stick injuries.
METHODOLOGY Research Approach: Quantitative Research Design: Descriptive cross-sectional study Setting: SGPGIMS, Lucknow Population: Nursing officers Sample Size: 150 Sampling Technique: Non-probability convenience sampling	CONCLUSION The study concludes that nursing officers at SGPGIMS, Lucknow had moderate knowledge regarding PEP of needle stick injury. Regular training sessions and workshops should be organized to improve knowledge. Larger multi-center studies are recommended to validate findings. Recommendations Conduct periodic awareness programs.

- Develop institutional protocols for needle stick injury management.
- Strengthen reporting systems and monitoring of compliance.

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