

ORIGINAL PAPER

Knowledge and Utilization of Hepatitis B Infection Preventive Measures and Influencing Factors among Health Care Workers in Ibadan, Nigeria

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Abstract

Aim: This study was carried out to determine the knowledge and utilization of hepatitis B infection preventive measures and influencing factors among primary health care workers in Ibadan.

Background: Exposure of healthcare workers to sharps, blood and body fluids makes them vulnerable to blood borne infections like human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C and hepatitis B to mention a few. There has been an increase in the prevalence of hepatitis in the under developed countries including Nigeria while Hepatitis B preventive measures are not practiced by some health workers.

Methods: This descriptive survey utilized a quantitative approach. Two hundred and ten workers were selected from primary health care centers within four local governments of Oyo state using multi stage sampling technique. Data were collected, coded and analyzed using Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) version 15.

Results: Majority of the health care workers had heard of hepatitis B transmission before while many (68.1%) had experienced needle stick injury. Many (65.2%) had good knowledge of preventive measures of hepatitis B while only 37.6% put the measures into practice.

Conclusion: Although they claimed high practice of preventive measures, the findings were to the contrary. Hypotheses tested showed that knowledge did not significantly influence practice of preventive measures of hepatitis B. It is recommended that primary health care workers should attend sponsored seminars /conferences targeted at improving practices of preventive measures of hepatitis B. Necessary resources for prevention of blood borne infections should be made available to the health care workers.

Key words: Knowledge, practice, preventive measures, primary health care workers.