

Abstract

Original Article

## Health Workers' Knowledge, Attitude and Practice towards Hepatitis B Infection in Northern Nigeria

**Fufore Mohammed Bello, MBBS, MSc in Public Health**

Department of ORL, Federal Medical Centre, Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria

**Cook Penny Anne, BSc. (Hons), PhD, FRSPH**

Professor of Epidemiology & Statistics, School of Health Sciences, University of Salford, Manchester, United Kingdom

**Kirfi Abdullahi Musa, MBBS**

Department of ORL, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Teaching Hospital, Bauchi, PMB 0117, Bauchi State, Nigeria

**Correspondence:** Mohammed Bello Fufore, Department of ORL, Federal Medical Centre, Yola, PMB 2017, Adamawa State, Nigeria. E-mail address: drbellofufore@yahoo.com

### Abstract

**Background:** Infection by hepatitis B virus is one of the many challenges in public health today and the tenth leading cause of mortality worldwide. Research has shown that health-care personnel are at higher risk of acquiring the disease than the general population.

**Aim:** The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between knowledge, attitude and practice among health workers towards hepatitis B infection in Northern Nigeria.

**Methods:** This study used a cross-sectional survey with self-administered questionnaire to gather information from an Ear, Nose and Throat health-care professionals in a tertiary hospital in Northern Nigeria. The data collected was coded and analyzed using SPSS software version 20.

**Results:** A similar numbers of males, 49.5% (53/107), and females, 50.5% (54/107) took part. The overall correctly answered knowledge questions by the professions was 76.9%. A one-way ANOVA between participants showed that there were significant difference between the profession groups in terms of knowledge scores ( $F_{4, 102} = 11.5, P < 0.001$ ) and in terms of practice scores between the groups ( $F_{4, 102} = 4.1, P < 0.01$ ); however, there was no significant difference in attitude between the professional groups ( $F_{4, 102} = 0.6, P = 0.68$ ). Multivariate analysis showed that health attendants had the best practice score and did not differ significantly to Doctors ( $\beta = -0.1, t = -0.9, P = 0.40$ ).

**Conclusion:** The findings suggest that there is a gap in knowledge and lack of compliance to infection control and preventive measures among health-care professionals. There should be an increased in awareness through campaigns geared towards educating health-care personnel on the dangers of hepatitis B infection.

**Keywords:** Health care workers, Hepatitis B infection, prevention and control, Knowledge, attitude and practice, Developing countries