

KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES RELATED TO HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV) INFECTION AMONG PATIENTS BELONGING TO A RURAL COMMUNITY

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1 INTRODUCTION

This research proposal aims to understand the level of existing knowledge and practices related to HBV infection in patients belonging to a rural community. This will be done to assess the possible impact of socioeconomic, educational and demographic factors on the same. Here, the focus is being drawn to possible hindrances that may be present in implementation of good knowledge and safe practices related to HBV infection. This can be considered as a foundation for critical analysis and implementation of solutions that may overcome the possible hindrances.

2 METHODS

A cross-sectional study will be conducted at M.Y. Hospital, Indore. There will be selection of 50 subjects as per the eligibility criteria decided prior to the study, and using convenience sampling. The inclusion criterion includes (i) age > 18 years, (ii) location of residence should be rural, and (iii) acute/chronic case of HBV infection. The exclusion criterion comprises of (i) presence of any co-morbidity, (ii) alcohol consumption, and (iii) refusal to give consent.

After explaining the study, its objectives and voluntary participation to the subjects, a written consent will be taken in the local language. There will be reassurance given regarding maintenance of anonymity of their identity and data. No data regarding their identity shall be reviewed individually.

Next, a structured questionnaire will be administered by a trained interviewer in the local language known to the patients. All questions will be explained to the subjects before their responses will be recorded. The questions will focus on the subject's demographic data, socioeconomic status, level of education, awareness about the HBV, symptoms of the HBV infection, safe practices for prevention of acquisition and spread, and the HBV vaccine.

The data collected will be analysed using the relevant software and statistical tests. Further evaluation of the same will be done to ascertain the fulfilment of the objectives of this research proposal.

3 RESULTS

The results are expected to show a variation in the level of knowledge and practices related to HBV infection among patients according to their demographics, socioeconomic status and level of education.

4 CONCLUSION

Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection affects a vast majority of people and is considered as a major public health problem on a global scale. It has devastating sequelae such as hepatocellular carcinoma and cirrhosis. There are acute as well as chronic cases. This research proposal aims to ascertain the level of knowledge and practices among infected individuals belonging to a rural community. Also, the potential impact of socioeconomic status will also be assessed. This research is expected to shed light on potential barriers in achieving good knowledge and practices among patients, and the relevant steps that must be taken to overcome these hindrances.

5 DISCLAIMER

This research proposal has been submitted to the faculty for further evaluation. It will be undertaken once the approval has been granted by the college faculty members as well as the local ethics committee.

This is only a proposal and should not be considered as fact currently.

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