

A STUDY ON THE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF ASEPTIC PRECAUTIONS AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS 2005

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Abstract

Aseptic technique is a set of specific practices and procedures performed under carefully controlled conditions with the goal of minimizing contamination by pathogens in the clinical setting. Aseptic technique is one of the top priorities of the medical profession because nosocomial infections are responsible for longer hospital stays and increased costs to the patient and hospital. The practice of aseptic technique has a place in every clinical setting. Therefore, it is of great importance that every medical student receives adequate training to develop knowledge and skill to this end.

Very little effort has been put into the evaluation of the knowledge and practice of aseptic precautions among medical students in India, more so in Kerala. This study is to investigate the existing levels of knowledge, attitude and practice of aseptic precautions among the 200 students of 2005 MBBS of Govt. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram. The study was descriptive in nature.

Appropriate questionnaire was prepared and finalized and pilot study. The study was then carried out by distributing the questionnaire among small groups of the study subjects. After completion of the survey the data was compiled and analysed. On the basis of the study, following conclusions are made:

- 11% of the total students have poor knowledge, 61% have moderate knowledge while 28% have good knowledge regarding the concepts of aseptic techniques and their applications.
- 62% of total students practice aseptic techniques to a moderate extent while 24% practice these techniques to a poorer extent. Only 14% practice aseptic techniques in a good manner.
- 71.5% of total students appreciate the relevance of aseptic technique while 28.5% of students think it is irrelevant in today's clinical setting.
- 70% of total students believe aseptic precautions though relevant are not practiced in MCH Trivandrum. 21% feel that aseptic techniques are considered relevant and practiced accordingly.
- The majority of students (38.41%) attribute poor practices to the poor facilities available. Poor motivation, poor instruction and poor knowledge rated 27.81%, 19.86% and 13.9% respectively.
- The association between sex and practice found to be significant with χ^2 value of 8.31 and p value > 0.02 while the association of knowledge and sex is insignificant.