

TITLE: KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES REGARDING HEPATITIS B VIRUS INFECTION

AMONG DENTAL STUDENTS AND INTERNS

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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) is a major global health problem.
- ❖ Dental health care professionals are at a higher risk of contracting and transmitting HBV infection.
- ❖ Risk of exposure for general dentists is about three to four times greater, and for non-immunized surgical specialists about six times greater than that of the general population.
- ❖ 10% of dental professionals screened in 1991 and 2% screened in 2012 showed HBsAg positive status.
- ❖ Earlier studies by Abhinav Singh et al (2011), R.K. Ravichandran et al (2019) showed poor level of knowledge and practice of infection control measures.

OBJECTIVES

To assess and compare the knowledge, attitude and practices regarding Hepatitis B Virus infection among Dental students and Interns.

METHODS

- Study design:** Cross-sectional
Study participants: Dental students and interns of Azeezia Dental College.
Sample size: n = 246
 Based on the results obtained from pilot test (p -80%, q -20%, d – 5%)
- Prior permissions obtained and informed consent taken before data collection

Data collection:

- Pretested 22 item closed ended questionnaire (Xinyi Li et al).
- Pilot tested on 20 respondents to ensure clarity and acceptability.
- Self-administered questionnaire consisted of four parts:

Demographic profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Gender • Academic level
Knowledge: 12 questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding mode of transmission, vaccination and prevention of HBV. • Response: Yes/No
Attitude: 6 statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject's attitude towards HBV infection and infected patients. • Response: 3 point scale; Agree, Neutral, Disagree
Practice: 4 questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection measures against HBV. • Vaccination Status

- SPSS Version 20.0
- Descriptive statistics – Frequencies and proportions
- Chi square test was performed to assess statistical significance. (p<0.05)

References: Malhotra V, Kaura S, Sharma H. Knowledge, attitude and practices about hepatitis B and Infection Control Measures among dental students in Patiala. J Dent Allied Sci 2017;6:65-9.

Li X, Kang H, Wang S, Deng Z, Yang T, Jia Y et al. Knowledge, attitude, and behavior of hepatitis B virus infection among chinese dental interns. Hepatitis monthly. 2015; 15(5).

RESULTS

Table 1: Demographic distribution

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	49	19.6
Female	201	80.4
3rd year	114	45.6
Interns	136	54.4

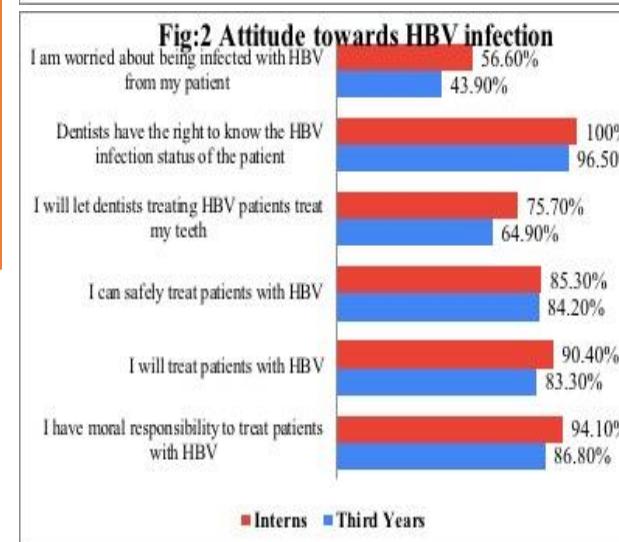
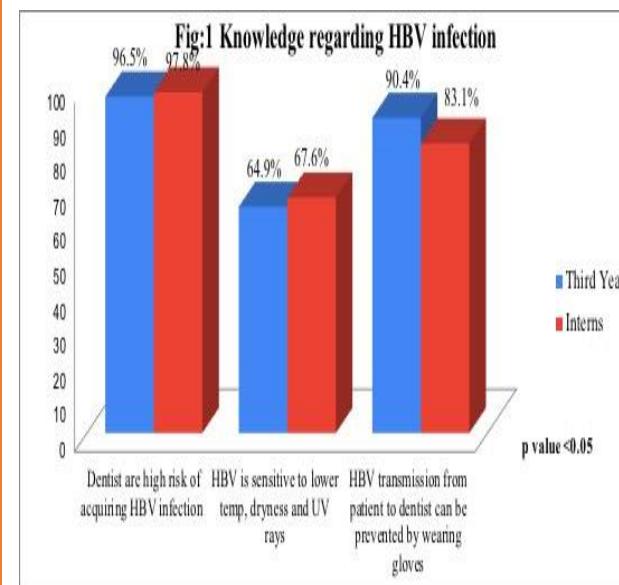


Fig 3: Vaccination status among third year students

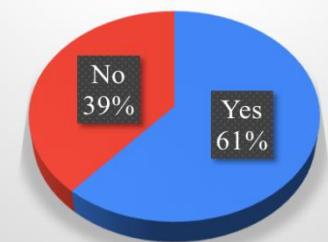
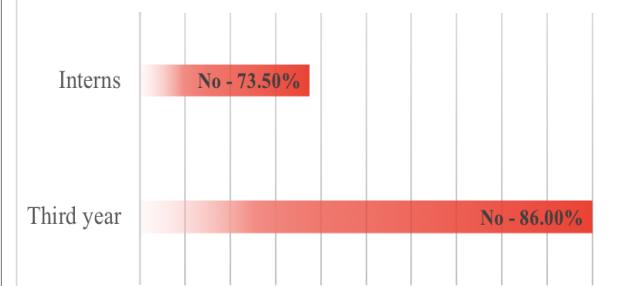


FIG 4: PERIODIC ANTIBODY TESTS AGAINST HEPTITIS B



DISCUSSION

- Overall level of knowledge about HBV infection among dental students and interns were fairly satisfactory.
- Majority have a positive attitude, and were willing to treat patients with HBV - in accordance with the studies conducted in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh.
- Regarding vaccination status - in contrast to a study done in Bhopal where 61% students were not vaccinated

CONCLUSION

- These findings highlight the necessity of continued education to improve knowledge, attitude and practices regarding HBV infection.