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Anaphylaxis and Epinephrine auto-injector use: A survey of pediatric trainees

Background: Pediatric trainees in many instances are the first medical responders and at the frontline managing children at risk for anaphylaxis in the hospital and at community level. Their fundamental knowledge is crucial in anaphylaxis.

Aim: This study aimed to assess pediatric trainees' knowledge in acute management of anaphylaxis, and looked at knowledge gaps between the different trainees' levels.

Method: This study was a two-phase cross-sectional survey based study of 94 pediatric trainees in phase one and 84 in phase two at the only tertiary hospital in Doha, Qatar. The primary outcome is trainees' knowledge related to anaphylaxis management and an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen®) use.

Results: 44(46%) trainees claimed had not received training about how to treat anaphylaxis. There was a discrepancy between claimed knowledge of how to treat anaphylaxis 86(90%) and actual knowledge as none of the trainees' level answered all the questions correctly. Moreover 41(49%) were unaware that EpiPen® should be administered IM in the lateral part of the thigh and 24(28%) did not know it should be used in case of anaphylaxis.

Conclusion: Deficient knowledge about epinephrine injection site, concentration and mode of administration among pediatric trainees were the most concerning outcome. Overconfidence in anaphylaxis management in senior trainees was worrisome.

Biography

Adiba Hamad graduated from the Faculty of Medicine Damascus University, Syria. Subsequently, she moved to the United States where she joined the Pediatric Residency Training at University of Toledo, Ohio. After completing her residency, she became an Attending Pediatrician at the same institution at Toledo Children Hospital Toledo, Ohio. She then moved to the Middle East where she joined the faculty as a Pediatric Sr. Consultant at Hamad Medical Corporation, City Doha, Qatar. Currently, she is a Senior Attending at General Pediatric at Sidra Medical and research Corporation in Qatar. She is also an Assistant Professor at Weill Cornell Medical University.

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