

International Conference on Women's Health, Gynecology & Obstetrics

July 08-10, 2014 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago-North Shore Conference Center, USA

Knowledge and attitude towards emergency contraception among undergraduate medical students

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Objective: To study knowledge and attitude towards emergency contraception in undergraduate medical students and to evaluate factors affecting it.

Method: Pre-validated questionnaire was given to the undergraduate medical students. 1 hr seminar was conducted on emergency contraception for those who did not learn about it. After 7 days, same questionnaire was provided to them. Descriptive statistics and appropriate statistical comparisons were used.

Results: Total 316 undergraduate medical students participated in the study. 154 students were included in group A (not learnt emergency contraception) whereas 162 students (learnt emergency contraception) in group B. 2 of 154 (1.3%) students of group A showed the adequate knowledge (>75% correct answer) before seminar. After conducting seminar for these students, 20 of 146 (13.7%) students achieved adequate knowledge. Average knowledge of these students was significantly increased after seminar [$41 \pm 16.88\%$ vs. $59.32 \pm 14.46\%$; $P < 0.05$]. However, it was not achieved up to the level of participants of Group B. Attitude score of group A students significantly improved after attending 1 hour seminar [36.24 ± 10.93 vs. 41.5 ± 10.87 ; $P < 0.05$]. 36 of 162 (22.2%) students from group B showed adequate knowledge. Average knowledge of group B students was $64.73 \pm 12.15\%$ whereas average attitude score was 42.9 ± 9.79 . 86.4%, 87% and 89.3% students were not able to describe about emergency contraception, different methods of emergency contraception and advantages of intra-uterine devices over emergency contraception pills, respectively. 82.1% students showed positive interest in learning more about emergency contraception and 70.1% students agreed to recommend use of emergency contraception in future. Students having good knowledge showed more positive attitude towards emergency contraception [$r = 0.41$, $P < 0.05$].

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