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Is stigmatization may change attitudes of medical students to patients with HIV infection?

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The study aims to evaluate the opinions of students and their attitudes towards people with HIV-positive status, with whom 🗘 they contact in the process of study, work and in everyday environments. An adapted questionnaire was used on the basis of a UNAIDS model questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale for anonymous survey conduction. Statistical significance by demographic data and learning was assessed using the chi-squared test, while the Student t-test was used to compare the mean values between the medical and pediatric departments. Three hundred and thirty four 4th year medical students from pediatric and medical faculties responded to the survey. About one-third of the students (29,6%) reported having provided care to PLWHA whereas only 21,3% reported having received adequate training to provide care to PLWHA. The main source of information about HIV/AIDS for students is the Internet (71%). Most of the students (92%) agreed with the statement of routine testing for HIV being part of the admission process for all patients. Meanwhile, students from both faculties agreed with testing patients for HIV infection without consent. Alike, 87% of the students are consent with marking charts, rooms of patients with HIV/AIDS thus hospital personnel would know the patient's status. More than half of the respondents (59%) agreed that health care workers have the responsibility to inform a spouse/partner or boyfriend/girlfriend of the patient's HIV status (even without patient's consent). Students are concerned that they are not trained to properly counsel a patient with HIV/AIDS. About one half of the students from medical faculty will try to avoid or refuse caring for HIV/AIDS patient. On the other hand, we found that students from pediatric faculty (82,4%) reported being afraid of becoming infected while providing care for an HIV/AIDS patients. This fear can have a positive impact on personal precautions. According to the results of the survey, students showed good awareness about HIV infection in total, including the routes of HIV spreading. Negative beliefs about testing of disease, confidentiality and disclosure of HIV status are not prevailing among the respondents, so it might maintain ethical and legal norms. Some of the respondents have a negative attitude towards providing help to patients with HIV, but the opinion about persons with HIV-positive status is generally positive and does not discriminate them as a part of the society.

Biography

Aleksey Khryanin received the status of Doctor of Medical Sciences at 35 years in the Novosibirsk State Medical University (Novosibirsk, Russia). He has published more than 250 scientific articles. Currently, he is a professor at the Department of Dermatovenereology in the Novosibirsk Medical University and Vice-president of the Siberian Association of Obstetricians-Gynecologists and Dermatovenereologists.

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