

Assessment of Knowledge and Attitude about MERS-CoV among Healthcare Workers in Wazarat Primary Care Center of PSMMC, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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Background:

Since its discovery in 2012, MERS presents a challenge for HCWs and for epidemiologists. Its spread in Arabian Peninsula, North Africa, East Asia and Europe represents a burden both Health care economic and human resources Therefore, good knowledge, positive attitude, and healthful practice of healthcare workers (HCWs) regarding MERS-CoV are a cornerstone in prevention of virus spread and disease outbreak.

Objectives:

The objective of this study is to determine the knowledge and attitude of MERS- COV among healthcare worker in primary care center of PSMMC, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Methods:

A cross sectional study was performed in primary care center of PSMMC, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A total of 233 healthcare workers were selected to participate in this study. Knowledge and attitude were assessed by using self-administered and pretested questionnaire. Descriptive statistics were carried out to express participants' demographic information, mean knowledge score and mean attitude score of HCWs.

Result:

Participants demonstrated good knowledge and positive attitude towards MERS. Majority of the respondents had gained knowledge about MERS from internet as shown by this study. The most number of correct responses were gathered from the question about the symptoms of MERS followed by the question on developing severe acute respiratory illness. The lack of respondents' knowledge was shown in the question asking about the incubation time of MERS-CoV, about 82.4% of the HCWs answered it incorrectly.

The most positive attitude of HCWs was regarding the use of protective equipment when dealing with MERS patient (4.64±0.64). Overall, gender and experience were the two demographic variables significantly associated with the mean knowledge and attitude scores

Conclusions:

The findings of this study showed that healthcare workers in Wazarat primary care center of PSMMC, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, have good knowledge and positive attitude towards MERS. Yet there are areas where low knowledge and negative attitude of HCWs was observed. However, studies are required to assess the knowledge and attitude of HCWs at national level so that effective interventions could be designed as surveillance and infection control measures are critical to global public health.

Key words: Knowledge, attitude, MERS-CoV, healthcare workers