

Incidence of sharp injury among doctors at Teaching hospital Jaffna in two months period, previous exposure, associated factors and their awareness of consequence and immediate management

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Background: Sharp injuries are important occupational hazards for doctor as they form an important mechanism for transmission of blood borne pathogens. The purpose of this study was **to** assess the incidence of sharp injuries among doctors at Teaching hospital, Jaffna in two months period, previous exposure, associated factors and their awareness of consequences and immediate management.

Methods: The study design was an institution based descriptive cross sectional study, among the doctors working at Teaching hospital, Jaffna during the research period from January 2018 to March 2018. The calculated sample size was 240. Simple random sampling method was used. Data were collected by using self-administered questionnaire. Data were collected in two visits. In the first visit, study detail was informed to the participants and their general details, details about previous exposures and knowledge were taken. Second visit was done after two months from first visit, details of injuries that took place during that two months period were taken.

Results: Among the doctors who participated in research 6.5% (N≤217) had experienced sharp injury during the two months of study period. Injuries were almost equal among male (5.7%) and female (7.2%). Most of the injuries took place in obstetrics and gynecology ward (42.8%). Most of the injuries took place during suturing (35.7%) and one fifth of sharp injuries happened during assisting or performing surgery. More than half of the injuries were caused by suturing needle (57.1%). More than half (57.9%) of the injuries occurred during the routine days and nearly one-third (35.7%) happened on the admission day. More than half of the participants (59.9%) had experienced sharp injuries in their carrier. Awareness about consequences of sharp injuries and immediate management were good among 57.6%, 77% of participants respectively.

Conclusion: Sharp injuries are common in doctors who are working in Teaching Hospital, Jaffna. Even though more than half of doctors have good knowledge about sharp injuries, it remains inadequate. Hospital should have policies to prevent sharp injuries, surveillance for occupational risks and must enhance training for doctors to reduce the occupational hazards.

Keywords: Sharp injury, doctors Jaffna, Knowledge