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cine, University of Jaffna (Ref. No. J/ERC/21/128/NDR/0260).

Most participants were not aware that they were eligible for BCS and were oblivious to the benefits of BCS. These information gaps need to be urgently addressed for women to make informed decisions about their health.

Keywords: Breast-conserving surgery, Modified radical mastectomy, Shared decision-making, Pre-surgical counselling, Sri Lanka

OP17

Factors affecting the Phase I academic performance of undergraduate students in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.

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Introduction: The academic performance of students in medical school is affected by multiple student factors. Understanding these determinants is essential for educators to devise interventions that can help students manage stress and improve their academic performance.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to identify the effect of students' socio-economic and educational factors and personal habits on Phase I (preclinical) academic performance.

Design, Setting and Method: A retrospective descriptive study was conducted among all the students from two consecutive batches who had recently graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna. Institutional based ethical review was obtained. An on-line self-administered questionnaire and data extraction from faculty records were used. Academic performance was categorised into good (passed with 1st attempt) and poor (subsequent attempt). Data were analysed using the chi-squared test in SPSS 26.0.

Results: 224 students took part in this study, with a response rate of 78.6%. 59.8% of them were female. Good academic performance rate was (71.4%). Academic performance in Phase I was significantly influenced by factors such as gender, financial issues of the family, accommodation, medium of ordinary and advanced level education, having study group discussions, reviewing lecture material before and after attending the lectures and social media use ($p < 0.05$). Education and occupation of parents, having medical professionals in the family, Advanced Level examination results, extracurricular activities, and exam preparation methods were not significantly correlated with Phase I academic performance ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusions: The study highlights the complex interplay of various socio-economic, ed-

educational, and personal factors affecting the academic performance of medical students. The identified factors which affect the academic performance of students should be taken into consideration when educators develop strategies to improve the academic performance of the students.

OP18

An audit on “Knowledge, attitude and preference of End-of-life care in patients attending to Medical clinic at Teaching hospital, Jaffna”

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Introduction: End-of-life care is a critical aspect of health care that aims to provide comfort, support and dignity to patients at their terminal stages of illness. It encompasses a range of medical, emotional and spiritual support tailored to individual needs and preferences.

Objective: This study aims to assess patients’ knowledge, attitudes and preferences regarding end-of-life care choices and guide healthcare providers to deliver appropriate, patient-centered and cost-effective health care

Method: It is a prospective cross-sectional audit conducted at the medical outpatient department of Teaching Hospital, Jaffna. The data collection was carried out using a self-administered questionnaire.

Results: This study focused on 100 patients aged 65 and above ,with the majority (%69) falling within the 74- 65 age group, highly represented the females (%61). Surprisingly, %81 of patients were already aware of the concept of end-of-life care, and a similar percentage believed that continuing treatment with no improvement was not worthwhile. %91 of patients expressed their willingness to discuss their end-of-care plan, and expect the doctors to guide them in such decision-making. But only half of them are willing to make their own decision.

Despite the majority (%93) expressing a preference for comfort care and peaceful terminal days, two-thirds of patients had not heard about palliative care and similar percentage of them expected acute resuscitation and ICU care when they become terminally ill.

Conclusion: Overall, this study reveals patients’ awareness, preference and willingness of decision-making regarding end-of-life care underscoring the importance of open communication between healthcare providers and patients. It highlights the need to bridge the gap between patients’ preference for comfort-focused care and expectation for intensive intervention which improve awareness and access to palliative care to deliver patient-centred care aligned with patients’ values and preferences

Keywords: End-of-life care, palliative care, acute resuscitation