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A study on knowledge, attitude and practice of blood donation among undergraduate students in the University of Peradeniya

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Blood donation is a self-directed volunteer service. Younger people are the future source of blood and they are aware and have knowledge about donation, but there is lack of regular donation practice among youngster. Regular donors in younger age group are less, so it is very important to sensitize these people for regular donation. Objectives were to determine the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) of blood donation among undergraduate students in University of Peradeniya, and to compare the knowledge of the blood donation between health related and non-health related categories. Method of the study was a survey based, descriptive cross sectional study, which was conducted among 375 undergraduate students in University of Peradeniya, and was selected using stratified random sampling. Data collection tool was a Self-administered questionnaire. Results revealed 32.28% of the non-health related students were aware of the appropriate criteria for blood donation. Health related students had higher knowledge about the blood donation criteria (84.44%). In health related group 66.6% replied HIV/AIDS can be transmitted to donor while donating blood and while looking at practice only 15.5% donate blood. Similarly in case of non-health group 78.59% replied HIV/AIDS can be transmitted to donor while donating blood and 22.1% have donated blood. The reasons for not donating blood are fear of needle, transmission of infections, they think that after donation people becomes weak and their weight decreases. Study conclude that though the respondent has good knowledge, but there is poor practice and it revealed the fact that adequate knowledge only cannot result in regular blood donation practice. The misconceptions regarding blood donation needs education and motivation through dissemination of information regarding blood donation particularly on electronic media.

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Prevalence of bronchial asthma and its association with obesity and overweight among adolescents in Dubai, UAE

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Background: Asthma and obesity are recently evolved into two major public health concerns in developed countries.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to measure the prevalence of bronchial asthma among preparatory and secondary school students in Dubai, and to study the association of bronchial asthma with overweight and obesity and some socio-demographic characteristics among preparatory and secondary school students in Dubai.

Methodology: A cross sectional study was conducted among students of preparatory and secondary schools (private and governmental schools) in Dubai using a stratified random sample technique. The study sample included 1639 children.

Results: It was brought out that 16.7% of the study students have had an asthma attack at some point of time with ever complaining of chest wheeze where near three fourths of them complained of this wheeze during the past 12 months prior to the research. Emirian students and those in governmental schools were more affected with bronchial asthma. Obesity and overweight expressed as BMI were among factors associated with increase the prevalence of asthma among school students in preparatory and secondary schools abreast with family history of asthma and being male.

Conclusion: Body weight and family history of bronchial asthma patients contribute significantly in the development of bronchial asthma. There is a need to develop a national asthma surveillance system for screening of bronchial asthma among school children, launching a national asthma public education campaigns, targeting childhood overweight and obesity and launching a prospective study with a large sample size for further investigation of the relation-ship between asthma and childhood overweight and obesity.

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