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Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for management of occupational exposures to Bloodborne pathogens: a perspective of health care professionals in tertiary care setting

Wajiha Iffat¹, Sadia Shakeel¹, Saima Naeem¹, Shagufta Nesar² and Hina Rehman³ ¹Dow University of Health Sciences, Pakistan ²Hamdard University, Pakistan ³Jinnah University for Women, Pakistan

Context: Health care worker are prone to occupational injuries thereby exposing them blood-borne pathogens. One of the important public health care concern in developing countries is the prevalence of infections owing to the prevalence of the blood Bourne patogens resulting from occupational injuries.

Objective: the present study was designed and conducted to analyze and evaluate knowledge of Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for the Management of Occupational Exposures to to Bloodborne Pathogens.

Methodology: A cross sectional study was conducted during January-July, 2018 in different health care setups. Health care workers in tertiary care setting were assessed for PEP by requesting them to fill and submit the survey form. All Health care workers at risk were invited to participate.

Results: Most of the respondents were working in laboratories and around 60% of the respondents were aware of the factors contributing to PEP. Around 60% of the Respondents were also aware of lab tests that should be carried out for the determination of exposed person susceptibility to a bloodborne pathogen infection.

Conclusion: The present study highlights the significance of appropriate training to prevent Occupational exposures. Professionals should be educated about post-exposure prophylaxis and there should be clear instruction about PEP prevention.

Speaker Biography

Wajiha Iffat is presently working as assistant professor in Faculty of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, Dow college of pharmacy, DUHS. She did her graduation (B.Pharm) and post-graduation degree in pharmacy from University of Karachi. She also holds D.H.M.S degree. She has obtained M.B.A. (marketing) from K.U.B.S, Karachi University in 2010. She has recently obtained her Ph.D. degree in Pharmaceutics, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Harris Shoaib from department of Pharmaceutics, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Karachi. She started her professional career by working as production control inspector in Abbott Laboratories (Pak) Ltd. She has also worked as trainer in project "a well-managed GP clinic program" that was launched by IOBM in collaboration with Snofi Aventis. She started her academic career in 2006 as lecturer. She joined Dow college of Pharmacy in 2008. Apart from academic activities, she was actively engaged as quality management system coordinator where her main task was to improve the quality of education system. She has also served as lead auditor and auditor in DUHS. She has also served as focal person in execution of various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. She has around 50 publications to her credit. Her main research interest includes formulation development and optimization, method development and validation, marketing and management, pharmaco-economics and pharmacy practice. She has attended and presented in seminars and symposiums organized by various academics institution.

e: wajiha.iffat@duhs.edu.pk

