

ABSTRACT

Objective: To assess the knowledge on paediatric triage and Primary Trauma Care (PTC) among Medical Officers of Lady Ridgeway Hospital

Methodology: A self-administered questionnaire consisting of 12 Multiple Choice type questions and 7 Single Best Response type questions based on paediatric triage and PTC was distributed among 251 Medical Officers selected randomly. Knowledge scores were analysed with regard to socio-demographic variables and previous training in trauma care.

Results: 234 Medical Officers participated in the study, giving a response rate of 93.2%. Satisfactory scores (50% and above) in triage and PTC were obtained by 60.2% and 77.8% of the sample respectively. The knowledge on paediatric triage was significantly associated with age and present appointment. Knowledge on PTC was significantly associated with age, present appointment, previous emergency/trauma related appointments held, training in trauma care/life support and time since last training. Medical Officers who were 40 years or below displayed better knowledge in triage (85, 72%) as well as in PTC (68, 57.6%) than the above 40 years category ($p < 0.001$). This group of Medical Officers also had a higher percentage (69.5%) of training in trauma care/ life support ($p = 0.002$). The Medical Officers in Surgical/Anaesthesia units displayed better knowledge in both triage (80, 68.4%) and PTC (55, 47%) compared to those in non-Surgical/Anaesthesia units. ($p = 0.016$). The Medical Officers appointed to PCU had obtained higher scores in PTC when compared to Medical Officers appointed to ASU and OPD ($p < 0.001$). A positive correlation was observed between Training in trauma care and PTC knowledge ($p < 0.001$). Of those who had received training, significantly higher knowledge scores (65.3%) were obtained by those who received training within the last 2 years ($p = 0.014$). There was no association between knowledge and sex of participant or university attended.

Conclusions: Training in trauma care has a strong impact on knowledge scores in PTC. Lower knowledge scores in triage are likely to be as a result of deficiencies in curricula of trauma care training programmes. It is a timely need for triage to be included as a component of trauma care training curricula.