

Awareness of Basic Life Support among Dental Students

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Abstract: The aim of this study is to access the awareness of Basic Life Support [BLS] among dental students. A cross-sectional study was conducted in a dental college during June 2019 by assessing response to 15 multiple choice questions on it. More than half of the students had knowledge of the basics in Basic Life Support [BLS], a very poor number of students had knowledge on Automated Electrical Defibrillator [AED]. Response in an emergency situation practically was desperately low among the students in the survey. So, I conclude that knowledge on Basic Life Support [BLS] among the students was good but by making it practically in the dental curriculum can be mandatory.

Keywords: basic life support, awareness

1. Introduction

- As life threatening emergencies may occur anytime, dentists also must be acquainted with various protocols to handle these emergencies [2]. Basic Life Support [BLS] or Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation [CPR] is a part of emergency medical care [4]. It maintains viability until full Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation [CPR] can be commenced [2].
- Fundamental aspects of BLS include recognition of sudden cardiac arrest [SCA] and activation of the emergency response system, early CPR and Rapid defibrillation with an Automated External Defibrillator [5].
- Providing BLS in medical emergency situation is the most essential contribution until proper medical care can be provided till the victim is stabilized [2]. Hence, it is important to incorporate BLS program among undergraduate dental students.

2. Methodology

Permission:

Permission was taken from the Head of the department, Department of Public Health Dentistry. Questionnaire is explained and informed consent was taken prior to study from study subjects.

Study Design:

A cross sectional questionnaire based study was conducted among students of Mamata Dental College, Khammam, Telangana.

Pilot Study:

Framed questionnaire is distributed among 30 students to know reliability of questionnaire.

Inclusion Criteria:

All interns, 4th year, 3rd year, 2nd year students who were present during the day of survey were included in the study. The duration of the study was from 29th May 2019 to 06th June 2019.

Exclusion Criteria:

Students who were absent during the day of survey were excluded.

Study procedure:

The study was conducted among 200 dental students. Questionnaires were distributed to 2nd, 3rd, 4th year students and interns during their working hours that is from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

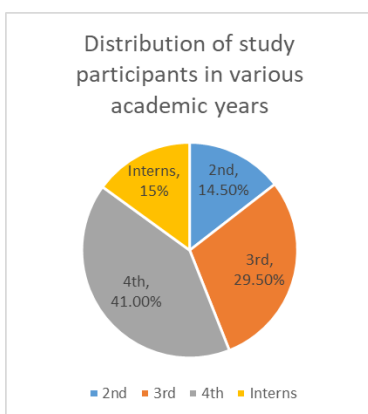
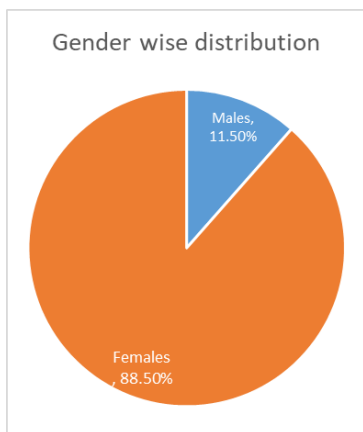
Questionnaire included personal data and questions pertaining to the current study.

Statistical Analysis:

The data collected through the questionnaire was tabulated into an Excel sheet and sent for analysis.

3. Results

The inputs from the 200 students were taken into study constituting 11.5% male and 88.5% female dental students belonging to various academic years and majority of them belongs to 4th year (41%).



In all the tables given below, statistically significant difference observed was $p < 0.05$.

In the following table, majority of students may feel confident initiating BLS (50%), some of them feel confident (26%) and the least not feel confident (24%).

Table 1

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	52	26.0	26.0	26.0
	No	48	24.0	24.0	50.0
	Maybe	100	50.0	50.0	100.0
	Total	200	100.0	100.0	

In the table given below, majority i.e., 53% of them maintain airway if they find someone unresponsive in the middle of the road as their first response, 37% of them look for safety, while the least (10%) of them start compression.

Table 2

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Look for safety	74	37.0	37.0	37.0
	Maintain airway	106	53.0	53.0	90.0
	Start compression	20	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	200	100.0	100.0	

In the below table, majority (49%) of them feel that mid chest is the location of chest compressions, the 30% of them feel the location is at the left side and minimum of them consider it is at the right side of chest (21%).

Table 3

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Left side of chest	60	30.0	30.0	30.0
	Right side of chest	42	21.0	21.0	51.0
	Mid chest	98	49.0	49.0	100.0
	Total	200	100.0	100.0	

The below table shows that, 88.5% people felt that BLS training should be a part of regular dental curriculum, on the contrary 11.5% people felt that it shouldn't be.

Table 4

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	177	88.5	88.5	88.5
	No	23	11.5	11.5	100.0
	Total	200	100.0	100.0	

4. Discussion

- The study was to know the awareness of Basic Life Support (BLS) in dental students.
- Many (89%) consider CPR abbreviation as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, 7% think as cardiac passive resuscitation and the least (4%) think as chest pulmonary revival.
- Maximum students (46.5%) think that the ratio of chest compressions: breaths in CPR is 30:2, 30% assume that the ratio is 10:2 while 23.5% assume that the ratio is 15:2.
- 63.5% students think AED stands for Automated External Defibrillator, 24% think as Automated External Defibrillator and 12.5% think as Advanced Electrical Defibrillator.
- 61.5% people consider Head tilt-chin lift is the maneuver to open the airway, 24.5% consider the maneuver is chin tilt head lift and 14% think it is sweep finger in mouth.

5. Conclusion

The overall knowledge and skills on Basic Life Support (BLS) among the dental students is inadequate and there is a need to improve. Since they have positive attitude towards it, Basic Life Support (BLS) program should be made mandatory in dental teaching curriculum.

References

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