

Knowledge of first aid among undergraduate students of KMC, Mangalore

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At some point in a medical curriculum, students are taught how to handle emergencies in a hospital emergency setting where all facilities are available. But the adequate knowledge required for handling an emergency without hospital setting at the site of the accident or emergency may not be sufficient. Keeping this view in mind, the present study was planned to determine the level of knowledge among the undergraduate students of KMC, Mangalore regarding first aid measures. Data were collected from 152 students of 4th, 6th and 8th Semester Students of KMC, Mangalore (Manipal University, Manipal) through pre-tested questionnaire in May, 2011. Each question has certain options which carry some marks based on the appropriateness of the option in the particular situation. The maximum and minimum scores were 207 and 007, respectively. The score between 147-207 was regarded as good; 67-146 as moderate; and 7-66 as poor. The results were compared by χ^2 test with significance set at 5.00% level. Out of 152 students, 13.8% had good level of

knowledge on first-aid; 68.4% had moderate and 17.8% had poor level of knowledge on first aid. Gender-wise, 11.5% of males and 15.4% of females had good level of knowledge on first-aid measures while 69.0% of males and 68.0% of females had moderate level of knowledge on first-aid measures. About 19.7% of males and 16.5% of females had poor level of knowledge on first-aid. Gender differences were, however, non-significant. The knowledge regarding first-aid measures was good amongst most of the students of 8th semester (16.7%) followed by those of 4th semester (15.6%) and 6th semester (7.70%), the differences being statistically significant. Most of the students had poor knowledge regarding first aid measures in the field of road traffic accidents, heat stroke, dog/cat bites, heart attack, acid reflux and insect in the ear. Because of very low number (13.8%) of undergraduate students having good level of knowledge on first-aid, courses related to first-aid should be included in the curriculum.