

Knowledge And Practices Regarding Biomedical Waste Management Among Health Care Providers In Kasturba Medical College Hospitals Mangalore - A Cross sectional Study

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Background

Biomedical waste is the waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment, immunization of human being or animals, in research or in the production of biological products including all categories of infected and toxic waste that is a potential threat to human beings and the environment.

It must be properly managed to protect the general public, specifically healthcare and sanitation workers who are regularly exposed to biomedical waste as an occupational hazard.

Methods

Our study on knowledge and practices regarding biomedical waste management was conducted on 218 health care providers that included 66 Doctors, 64 Nurses, 43 Lab technicians & 45 Class IV Employees.

Results

The cross-sectional study was done in the teaching hospitals of KMC Mangalore for duration of 7 days. A

pre-tested questionnaire with 25 items was given. According to the survey, 88.5% of health care providers are aware that their hospital has a waste management plan. 71.7% of health care providers are aware of the color coding system to segregate waste. 97.6% of health care providers follow hospital policies while disposing waste. 40.4% of health care providers are aware of the diseases transmitted by biomedical waste. 98.2% of health care providers are willing to learn better methods of waste disposal.

Conclusions

It was observed that most health care providers were aware of practices of waste management, though they are still willing to learn better methods.

Most health care providers knew about color coding system of waste disposal in spite of not attending any seminar or workshop regarding the same.

Most health care providers were of the opinion that regular training regarding biomedical waste management was needed.