



A survey to assess the proficiency of dentists in handling medical emergencies: A Multinational Study

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Abstract:

It has been reported that Medical emergencies are 5.8 times more likely to occur in dental offices than in medical offices and an average dentist might expect to encounter some form of medical emergency as often as every 16 months. Approximately, 7.5 -8% of emergencies are expected to occur in a dental clinic every 10 years. Keeping the above factors in mind, a study was conducted to assess the proficiency of Post Graduate Students and Dentists regarding emergency medical care and its practical application in a dental setting from all corners of the globe. Data was collected through a pre-tested and pre-validated online questionnaire (google forms) divided in to 3 sections and having a total of 19 questions. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 21.0. Analysis of the results revealed that out of a total of 941 dentists, only 499 (53.1%) reported to have undergone any medical emergency and/or basic life support training and 685 (72.8%) reported having an emergency kit in their clinics. 910 (96.7%) dentists reported having to have encountered some kind of dental emergency in their clinic(s) with syncope(560, 61.1%) being the most common emergency. Dentists with >5 years of experience fared better (significant association) on questions related to handling medical emergencies; however, this was statistically not significant when compared with one's qualification. As per the data analyzed, it is recommended that Basic Life Support is included in the dental curriculum and dentists are made to undergo a refresher course at fixed periods of time during their clinical practice so that they can be more proficient in handling any medical emergency encountered in their clinical setting(s).



Biography:

Swati Sharma is currently serving as an Associate Professor and Head, Department of Public Health Dentistry, School Dental Sciences, Sharda University; Dr. Swati Sharma has a cumulative teaching experience more than 10 years. She takes a keen interest in research promotion, planning of dental services for the community and inculcating newer teaching methodologies for students. Since 2013, Dr. Sharma has been invited as a UG examiner for various dental college as well as a speaker, chairperson and organizing committee member for various national and international conferences. She is the member of IDA, IAPHD & ISID (International Society for Infectious Diseases). She has 8 published patents and has 29 publications in National & International journals; has served as a reviewer for various journals and has the distinction being the author for 3 books on various topics in dentistry.

Publication of speakers:

1. Swati Sharma, Spermatogonial stem cells: updates from specification to clinical relevance, Hum Reprod Update, 2019 May 1; 25(3):275-297.

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