Introduction

This study is an analysis of occupational safety and environmental health knowledge on Percutaneous Injuries (PI) before educational intervention for healthcare workers attending professional symposia in infection control and occupational health and safety from many healthcare facilities in Saudi Arabia.

Objectives

The objectives of this study were:
- To assess the knowledge of the infection control practitioners before training.
- To identify areas of improvement from current practice reflected from participants answers.
- To assure on good practices
- To assess training methodology and outcome.

Method

Data was collected using:
- Pre-course questionnaire that includes 9 questions extracted from international standards and guidelines including center of disease control (CDC), Joint Commission International measurable elements of Prevention and Control of Infection (PCI) chapter and Central Board of Accrediting Healthcare Organization PCI chapter requirements.

Results

Total number of participants who attended the training was 662, majority of them were nurses. Response rate (those who completed the knowledge questionnaire) was 57.4%. Among respondents, only 9.7% scored 80% or above (the passing mark), quarter (24.7%) scored 60% and more than half (57.9%) scored less than 60%. In the meantime, 7.6% have zero score. Median knowledge score was 40%. The lowest percentage of correct answers (8.4%) was related to identification of difference between hazard and risk followed by the best safety device where the answer should be a careful worker (26.8%) compared to expensive shielded needles or approved sharps or needles. About 50% correct answers were on barrierto purchasing products for safety to prevent PIs (73.7%).

Conclusion

Knowledge assessment before educational interventions on occupational safety and environmental health is essential to focus on the healthcare providers’ need during the course and hence reduce effectively the burden of exposure to hazards within healthcare facilities.

All healthcare workers are required to attend occupational safety and environmental health training activities as a common practice.

Focus of training should be on hazard identification and personal control measures.

Future study to ensure the sustainability of improvement and good practice is recommended.

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References

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