

Knowledge and Preventive Practices Regarding Dengue Fever among Adults Accompanying Patients in a Tertiary Care Hospital in Rural Area of Sonapat

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Background

In 2015, there have been large outbreaks of dengue fever (DF) worldwide and Delhi, India, recorded its worst outbreak since 2006 with over 15,000 cases. Environmental changes and lack of awareness result in rise in dengue outbreaks.

Objective

To assess the knowledge and preventive practices regarding DF among adults accompanying patients in a tertiary care hospital in rural area of Sonapat.

Methods

A hospital based cross-sectional study was conducted on 103 randomly selected adults accompanying patients during the period December 2016 and January 2017. A pretested, structured questionnaire was administered through face-to-face interviews. Data were analysed using R software.

Results

The mean age was 35.1 ± 13.8 years. Out of the 103 participants, 55 (53.4%) were females and 48 (46.8%) were males. Majority of the respondents (97%) had heard about dengue. The most important source of information was television (47.6%). Maximum participants (87.4%) answered fever as the presenting symptom, whereas (7.8%) did not know any of the symptoms of dengue. More than two third (81.5%) knew that the dengue was transmitted by mosquito bites. Less than half (44.7%) respondents correctly reported biting time of mosquito vector. Furthermore, 81.5% the respondents would go to the physician on getting fever during dengue outbreak. About 88% of participants mentioned wearing of full sleeve clothes as a predominantly used preventive measure against mosquito bite.

Conclusions

Majority of the study participants heard about DF, but less than half were aware about the other clinical symptoms of dengue and biting time of the mosquito. The overall practices of the participants towards dengue prevention was good. Need to strengthen BCC activities to increase the community awareness of DF which form the basis of good preventive practices.