

A study of travel medicine among National and International travellers in Egypt

Travel medicine has emerged as a new field of medicine that involves pre-travel evaluation, contingency planning during travel, and post-travel care. Its implementation showed major discrepancies among different countries. This study aims to assess the health information given to travelers and detect their sources of information. This is a cross sectional analytical observational study of 397 travelers implemented on different travel destinations all over Egypt. It adopts self administered structured questionnaires according to the International Travel Health Questionnaire (ITHQ) and in-depth interviews with managers in the Ministry of Tourism. The results showed that 17.5% of the international travelers and none of the national travelers heard about the ITHQ; whereas, 58.9% of the international travelers and 26.8% of the national travelers took information about safety measures from different sources. However, there was a lack of travelers' knowledge about safety measures with no obvious role of travel agencies.

Key words: Travel medicine, traveler safety, travel agent health advice.