

Awareness of Stroke in Adults and Pediatrics among Fayoum University Hospital Workers and Medical Students

Background: Stroke is a devastating public health problem in Egypt and it is considered the third leading cause of death in the developed countries. The hospital workers are an important source of stroke knowledge. **Objective:** We aim to assess the stroke knowledge among Fayoum University hospital workers and medical students. **Methods:** A cross sectional hospital based survey was conducted on (202) participants from Fayoum University hospital workers and medical students. They were divided into two groups: health care providers (HCPs) and non-health care providers (NHCPs) who were interviewed using a structured questionnaire on stroke knowledge in both adults and children. **Results:** The HCPs represented (65.8%) of the study sample, (93.6%) had knowledge about stroke while (30.7%) only knew that stroke might occur in the pediatric age group; (17.3%) knew the possible causes and only (4.5 %) were oriented that the inborn errors of metabolisms might be a cause of stroke in children. The common known important stroke risk factors reported were hypertension (65.8%); followed by obesity (58.9%), stress (55.9%), and smoking (48.5%). The main source of information was through getting contact with someone having stroke in both groups (34.6%, 21.7% respectively). Eighty five percent of HCPs and 40.6% of NHCPs might transfer the patients to the hospital as a first action seeking for proper treatment. **Conclusion:** A huge gap of knowledge about stroke symptoms was present between the HCPs and NHCPs indicating the urgent need for a community based stroke awareness programs.

Key Words: awareness, stroke, adult, children, health workers