

Assessment of Knowledge and Practices of Health Care Providers about Neonatal Jaundice in Primary Health Care Units in Fayoum Governorate, Egypt

Alkassem A Elgameel¹, Wael S Mohamed¹, Naglaa A El Sherbiny²
and Rehab E Amin³

¹*Pediatrics and* ²*Public Health Departments, Faculty of Medicine, Fayoum University, and* ³*Fayoum General Hospital, Ministry of Health and Population*

ABSTRACT

Background: Neonatal jaundice is one of the most common disorders in newborns. However, it is one of the leading cause of preventable brain damage, physical and mental handicap, and early death among infants in communities.

Objective: This study aimed to assess knowledge and practices of primary health care (PHC) workers about neonatal jaundice.

Subjects & Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at the PHC centers and units at the six districts of Fayoum Governorate among a group of **315** nurses and **152** physicians using a self-administered, structured, questionnaires, Arabic one for nurses and an English one for physicians. Both questionnaires assessed the knowledge and practice of health workers about description, causes, effective treatment and complications of neonatal jaundice.

Results: Regarding neonatal jaundice the knowledge score was satisfactory for the study physicians (**20.4 ± 3.1** from a total of **38**) and poor for the nurses (**13.8 ± 4.5** from a total of **32**), whereas the practices of both physicians and nurses were generally good (with a score of **14.8 ± 2.1** and **7.6 ± 1.8** from a total of **24** and **12**, respectively).

Conclusion: Knowledge of primary health care workers about neonatal jaundice was generally inadequate and may cause potential delays in referral for effective treatment. There is need for continuous regular training of primary health care workers to ensure effective management and reduce complications of neonatal jaundice .

Keywords: Neonatal jaundice, Primary health workers, Knowledge & Practice, Fayoum Governorate.