

Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of Private Dental Practitioners Regarding the Biomedical Waste Management in NCR Region of India: A Cross Sectional Study

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BACKGROUND

The term biomedical waste has been defined as “any waste that is generated during the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, or in the research activities pertaining to or in the production or testing of biological and includes categories mentioned in schedule I of the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) rules 1998”. The indiscriminate health care waste disposal has led to a global rise in infections (AIDS and Hepatitis B), along with changes in microbial ecology and spread of antibiotic resistance. Dental practices produce large amounts of wastes such as plastic, latex, cotton, glass and other materials, most of them can be contaminated with infected body fluids, along with small quantities of other types of waste, such as silver amalgam, mercury and varied chemical solvents.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This study aims to assess the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of private dental practitioners regarding the biomedical waste management in NCR region of India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross-sectional survey was carried out among the private dental practitioners in NCR region of India. The private dental practitioners were approached to fill the 22 point questionnaire, after taking the informed verbal consent. The percentage response for each question from all the participants was obtained and the data was calculated.

RESULTS

This study shows that the knowledge component was equal among both the post graduate dentists (MDS) and undergraduates (BDS). However, undergraduate dentists lacked in attitude and practices regarding biomedical waste disposal.

CONCLUSION

The present study is expected to enhance the existing knowledge of biomedical waste management and will enforce awareness among the dental health care personell regarding proper and effective disposal of biomedical wastes.