

Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among Dental Practitioners Regarding Ebola Virus Disease in NCR Region of India: A Cross Sectional Study

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BACKGROUND

Ebola virus disease (EVD), previously known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is caused by a RNA virus of family "Filoviridae". Initial spread to the human population occurs after contact with infected wildlife and later human to human spread takes place through direct contact with blood, body fluids, secretions and contaminated objects. The disease manifests as initial non specific flu like symptoms. Supportive and symptomatic treatment forms the mainstay management with emphasis on rehydration.

The practice of dentistry exposes dentists to a variety of microorganisms that are transmitted via blood, oral or respiratory secretions. Hence, dentists should have sound knowledge regarding EVD and should practice universal infection control measures to combat this dreaded entity.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This study aims to assess the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among dental practitioners regarding Ebola Virus Disease in NCR region of India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross-sectional survey of 250 out of a total of 589 registered dental practitioners was carried out in NCR region of India. A 35 point pre tested questionnaire was filled out, after taking the informed verbal consent. Statistical analysis was carried out using Microsoft Excel.

RESULTS

The overall knowledge component was only about 55.3%, the attitude to learn more about EVD was an astonishing 93.8% and 70.4% dentists practiced infection control measures.

CONCLUSION

In the NCR region, EVD related knowledge is poor, but the attitude to learn and safely practice universal infection control precautions is impressively high.