Role of structured orientation program for medical interns in increasing the awareness on informed consent.

K Suprasanna
*Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore*, suprasanna.k@manipal.edu

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Title: Role of structured orientation program for medical interns in increasing the awareness on informed consent.

Author: Dr. Suprasanna, Associate Professor, Department of Radiodiagnosis, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Mangalore, Karnataka 575001, India

Abstract

Background: The documentation of consent is a legal pre-requisite and its absence could lead to serious implications in today’s medical practice. Interns starting their practical medical training in various disciplines, have an orientation program, wherein, the role of consent is emphasised in various sessions as it is imperative for the interns to have a sound knowledge regarding consent. The present study has been planned to assess the level of awareness regarding consent among interns in medical practice and to study the effectiveness of interns’ orientation program in increasing the awareness regarding consent.

Methods: This cross-sectional study included all interns who attended the orientation program on April 26th 2021 conducted by the Medical Education Unit at KMC Mangalore. Necessary permissions were obtained from concerned authorities. Institutional Ethical committee approval for the study was obtained. A validated questionnaire included a set of 14 questions regarding consent with equal number of positively and negatively framed questions. Responses were recorded along the 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The questionnaire was given through Google forms prior to the session to form the pre-test assessment. Informed consent was included at the beginning of the questionnaire. Following the session, the questionnaire with the same set of questions was presented to form the post-test assessment. Those students, who did not submit the pretest questionnaire, were excluded from the study. Those who submitted only the pretest questionnaire, but failed to submit the posttest form were included only to assess the initial awareness of the interns regarding consent, but were not included in the pretest-posttest comparison. Responses to each question was scored from -2 to +2 and hence each participant could score a minimum of -28 and a maximum of +28

Results: 211 interns in total have answered the questionnaire, in which 208 interns have answered the pretest questionnaire, 174 interns have answered the posttest questionnaire. All 208 participants who answered the pretest questionnaire have been included in analyzing the initial awareness of the interns regarding consent. 171 participants, who answered both the pretest and posttest questionnaire are being included for the pretest-posttest comparison using paired t test excluding 40 participants -3 participants who have answered only the posttest questionnaire and not the pre-test questionnaire and 37 participants who have answered only the pretest, but not the posttest form. Further statistical analysis are awaited

Conclusions: awaited

Key words: consent, interns’ orientation program, questionnaire, medico-legal