



## ABSTRACT

### **Factors Affecting Pharmacists' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Barriers Towards Cancer and Colorectal Cancer Health Education: A Cross-Sectional Study from Palestine.**

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Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a major global health issue and the third leading cause of mortality in Palestine. Early screening significantly reduces CRC-related deaths, yet little is known about pharmacists' knowledge and attitudes toward CRC screening in Palestine. This study aims to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and barriers related to CRC screening among pharmacists in the West Bank.

A cross-sectional online survey was conducted among 417 practicing pharmacists in the West Bank from January 19 to February 19, 2025. The survey included questions on demographics, oncology background, barriers to screening, knowledge of CRC, risk factors, and attitudes toward early detection. Data were analyzed using SPSS v25.0, and multiple regression was performed to identify predictors of knowledge and attitudes.

The study revealed that most participants were female (76.3%) and aged 20–29 years (69.8%). Pharmacists demonstrated moderate knowledge of CRC (69.14%) but exhibited a highly positive attitude toward education and screening (85.15%). Knowledge gaps were notably present in screening methods and risk factor assessment. The primary barriers identified were insufficient training (89.7%), limited educational resources (87.8%), and difficulties in patient engagement



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(85.1%). Positive attitudes toward early detection and a strong focus on oncology education were significant predictors of increased knowledge.

This is the first study to assess pharmacists' roles in CRC screening in the West Bank. Despite pharmacists' positive attitudes and willingness to advocate for early detection, significant knowledge gaps remain. Addressing these gaps through enhanced pharmacy education and professional training is crucial to empowering pharmacists in CRC prevention and early detection.