Al-Quds University
Deanship of Graduate Studies

Assessment of Medical Management Practices of Acute Diarrhea among Children Admitted to Pediatric Hospitals in Gaza City

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MPH Thesis

Jerusalem- Palestine

1438/ 2017

Assessment of Medical Management Practices of Acute Diarrhea among Children Admitted to Pediatric Hospitals in Gaza City

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A thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Public Health/ Epidemiology Track- Al-Quds University

1438/ 2017

Al-Quds University

Deanship of Graduate Studies

Public Health College

Thesis Approval

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Master thesis submitted accepted in / /

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Jerusalem- Palestine

1438/ 2017

Dedication

To my beloved parents and family,

To my wife,

To my daughter Noor,

To all of them,

I dedicate this work

Declaration

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis (or any part of the same) has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

Signed: ……..

Ibrahim O. Lubbad

Date……

Acknowledgment

All praise to **ALLAH** (Al-mighty), The Beneficent, the Merciful, without his mercy and guidance this work and other works never has been started nor completed. I praise to Him (Al-mighty) as much as the heavens and earth and what is between or behind.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my supervisor **Dr. Ashraf Y. EL-Jedi**, associate professor of public health, faculty of nursing at the Islamic University of Gaza, for his supervision, invaluable help and guidance to achieve this work.

My sincere gratitude goes to my great parent and all my nice family.

My deep gratitude goes to my wife **Shereen** for her help, encouragement, support and efforts to finalize this study.

Also, my thanks go to all my teachers at the school of public health at Al-Quds University – Gaza branch.

Finally yet importantly, warm thanks are dedicated to whoever extended a hand to achieve this work.

Ibrahim O. Lubbad

Abstract

Diarrhea is one of the most common diseases in children. It constitutes a large problem in Gaza Strip, where it's percentage is more than 11% of all diseases in children under age of five, and thus, represents a large load. The one answer of the problem is to utilize evidence based guidelines in managing of diarrhea, such as the World Health Organization guidelines.

In an attempt to assess the medical management of acute diarrhea regarding the World Health Organization guidelines, a across sectional study was conducted in Gaza city, during the peak of diarrheal diseases (May to August, 2016), in order to improve medical adherence to the universal guidelines which enforce effective, standardized, ideal, and management of acute diarrhea.

The interviewed questionnaires targeted all physicians working at AL-Nasser and Al-Durra Pediatric hospitals (102 physicians) to identify their knowledge regarding the guidelines. The response rate was 93%. Also, a retrieval sheet was used to identify their actual practices, where 301 acute diarrhea cases' records were retrieved from the two hospitals.

Reporting of the most danger signs of acute diarrhea (3 and 4 compatible signs) specified by the guidelines had very low percentage in the knowledge (10.6%)and practice (18.9%). On other hand, Reporting of the most of dehydration signs (2 and 3 correct signs) had a high percentage in the knowledge (71.1%) and less in the practice (47.5%). For the correct classification of dehydration, only 4.2% of the physicians classified dehydration correctly, while 27% of the classification practices were correct. Though the percentage of requesting serum electrolytes was 88.4% in the knowledge, 54.2% of the records contained them. The sharp differences between knowledge and practices were found in correct indication of intravenous fluids, and use of zinc during management of acute diarrhea, where the percentages 85.3%, and 86.3% respectively were in knowledge, compared with 16.3%, and 24.3% in the practice. The opposite were found in the use of antiemetics (24.2% VS 65.1%), antimicrobials (18.9% VS 59.1%), and the correct indications of Oral Rehydration Salts (23.2% VS 65.4%). Regarding the use of antidiarrheal, the difference between knowledge (4.2%) and practice (5.6%) was very small.

The intravenous fluids' sets were the most available commodities (98.9%), while the guidelines on management of diarrhea /dehydration were the least available (14.7%). Furthermore, the largest problem impeding application of the guidelines was lot of work (48.5%).

The researcher called for the importance of adoption, on the job training, and application of the guidelines, the need for audit and regular feedback, elimination of the impeding obstacles, and the necessity of provision of the commodities necessary for application of the guidelines.

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List of abbreviations

AAP	The American Academy of Pediatrics
AD	Acute Diarrhea
AGE	Acute Gastro Enteritis
CPGs	Clinical Practice Guidelines
DD	Diarrheal Disease
EDL	Essential Drug List
FFI	Fever for Investigation
GC	Gaza City
GS	Gaza Strip
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IV	Intravenous
IVF	Intravenous Fluids
Km	Kilometer
MOH	Ministry Of Health
MOI	Ministry of Interior
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGT	Naso Gastric Tube
NS	Normal saline
ORS	Oral Rehydration Solution
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PDS	Pediatric Dextrose Saline
PHC	Primary Health Care

RL	Ringer Lactate
Sq.	Square
UNRWA	The United Nations Relief and Works Agency
URL	Universal Resource Locator
WB	West Bank
WHO	World Health Organization