



ABSTRACTS: VOLUME 6, SPECIAL ISSUE

ABSTRACT

Basic Geriatric Knowledge and Awareness among Palestinian Physicians: A Cross Sectional study

Oadi Shrateh¹, Jalal Al-Khateeb¹, Nicolas Elshatleh¹, Raghad Sweity¹, Rita Yacoub¹, Seham Madaka¹, Hussein Hallak²

¹*Medical Research Club, Faculty of Medicine, Al-Quds University, Palestine.*

²*Medical Research Club, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Al-Quds University, Palestine.*

Background: As it is the trend worldwide, Palestine is expected to experience significant changes in demographics over the upcoming few decades, with the percentage of elderly people aged above 65 anticipated to increase in the years ahead. This necessitates concerted efforts to achieve a better understanding of geriatric care and to establish infrastructure of medical professionals and facilities qualified to deal with this vulnerable population. Given the lack of specialized training in geriatric care in medical schools and the absence of geriatric specialty programs in Palestine, assessing healthcare providers' knowledge and awareness of normal aging and geriatric syndromes would be a very appropriate initial step to direct such efforts.

Objective: This study aimed at determining the extent of Palestinian physicians' knowledge and awareness of the geriatric population and the unique medical conditions prevalent among this age group.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional, multicenter study that was conducted in the Ministry of Health hospitals in Jenin, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jericho governorates in the period between September 2023 and February 2024. It included a sample of 378



physicians who filled out a self-reported questionnaire constituting questions about demographic data, level of medical profession, geriatrics education, and a validated test on gerontological care (Facts on Aging Quiz1).

Results: Statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS program. 22.5% of participants demonstrated a high knowledge level, whereas only 23.8% scored at a low knowledge level. Overall, Palestinian physicians exhibited an intermediate level of geriatric knowledge with a mean score of 56.5 out of 100.

Interpretation of results: Palestinian physicians have an intermediate level of knowledge on geriatrics in general. Intern doctors and residents exhibited significantly higher levels of knowledge compared to general practitioners. Receiving training on geriatric care during medical school was associated with a slight decline in knowledge.

Conclusions: Palestinian physicians have an intermediate level of knowledge on geriatrics in general. Intern doctors and residents exhibited significantly higher levels of knowledge compared to general practitioners. Receiving training on geriatric care during medical school was associated with a slight decline in knowledge.

Keywords: Geriatric Medicine, Palestinian physicians, Knowledge assessment, Gerontological Care, Cross-Sectional study, Elderly Population, Geriatric Syndromes, Geriatrics Education, Facts on Aging Quiz 1, Ministry of Health Hospitals.