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Assessment of Palestinian Pharmacists Knowledge Concerning Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

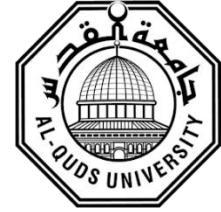
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Background: Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is characterized by decrease in kidney function. CKD is a public health problem with an increasing incidence and prevalence, poor outcomes and high cost.

Objectives: This study evaluated the pharmacists knowledge regarding CKD and factors affecting it.

Methods: The study used the analytical descriptive method. The previous literature on the subject was used to clarify the theoretical background of the study. Based on the previous literature and previous studies, an internet-based self-administrated questionnaire was distributed using social media groups to the hospital and community pharmacists in Palestine. The developed questionnaire comprises two domains; the disease knowledge domain (ranged 0-16) and medication knowledge domain (range 0-17). Data was coded and entered SPSS (version 25) for analysis.

Results: A total of 352 questionnaires were completed and returned. More than half of the respondents were female (58%) and young pharmacists (65%). Years of experience variable was distributed to 52.6% for 1-3 years, while we find that there is 19.3% for 4-7 years. The majority of pharmacists (65.9%) were working in community pharmacies, while 34.9% were working in hospital pharmacies. The study revealed that the participants had an inadequate level of knowledge on both disease and medication knowledge scale with means 5.8 ± 2.1 and 6.3 ± 1.9 respectively.



However, the vast majority of the sample selected that the (CKD) can be prevented by 79.5%. The multiple linear regression applied on disease knowledge revealed that hospital pharmacists ($\beta=0.044$; $P=0.02$) and age ($\beta=-0.038$; $P=0.028$) significantly affect the disease knowledge. On the medication scale both hospital pharmacist ($\beta=0.033$; $P=0.02$) and academic achievement ($\beta=0.065$; $P=0.001$) significantly affected the medication knowledge.

Conclusion: There is insufficient knowledge regarding CKD its treatment. Hospital pharmacists exhibit more knowledge of CKD its treatment. There is a demand to update kidney disease knowledge among pharmacists and encourage them to attend structured training programs about the management of kidney disease.

Keywords: Chronic kidney disease, Knowledge, Pharmacists.