

Knowledge and practice regarding the usage of corticosteroids and associated sociodemographic factors among patients at Teaching Hospital Jaffna

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Background and objective: Corticosteroids are widely prescribed for chronic illnesses. Good knowledge and practice regarding the usage of corticosteroids are fundamental to the safe and effective use of corticosteroids among patients. This study was done to assess the knowledge and practice regarding corticosteroids usage and the influence of sociodemographic factors among patients at Teaching Hospital Jaffna.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 344 patients on corticosteroid therapy at Teaching Hospital Jaffna. Patients were selected by a population-proportionate systematic sampling method in each clinic. An interviewer-administered questionnaire was pretested and used to collect data. Data were analyzed using SPSS (v23). A score of >50% was considered as “Good” knowledge and practice. Chi-square test was performed to describe the influence of socio-demographic factors on knowledge and practice.

Results: Response rate was 100%. Mean age of the participants was 54 ±15 years, with ages ranging from 18 to 85 years. Among the participants, 239 (69.5%) were females. Majority of the participants (80.5%, n=277) had poor knowledge on usage of corticosteroids, but 72.4% (n=249) had good practice. Among sociodemographic factors, age (p=0.047), marital status (p=0.018), highest educational qualification (p=0.002) and employment status (p=0.028) had a statistically significant association with knowledge. Age (p<0.001), highest educational qualification (p=0.006), employment status (p=0.012) and monthly income (p=0.043) had a statistically significant association with practice.

Conclusion: The majority of patients on corticosteroids have poor knowledge on usage of corticosteroids. This situation needs to be improved by giving health education regarding the usage and side effects of corticosteroids to patients.

Keywords: Corticosteroids, Knowledge, Practice, Adverse Effects