

## KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE TOWARDS LIVER ABSCESS, AMONG PATIENTS ADMITTED TO THE TEACHING HOSPITAL, JAFFNA

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Amoebic liver abscess (ALA) is an emerging public health concern in northern Sri Lanka. There has been an increase, in the recent past, in the number of ALA suspected patients admitted to the Teaching Hospital (TH), Jaffna. A study was designed to establish knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) towards ALA, among the patients admitted to the TH, Jaffna. Systematically selected ALA patients were recruited with their written consent. A pre-tested structured questionnaire was administered to the subjects. The collected data were analyzed using the statistical software SPSS version 16. Among the selected 96 patients, 90 participated in this study. All the subjects were males and 65% of them were in the age group of 41-50. Most of them (80%) studied only up to grade 8 and were labourers (60%). Monthly income of the majority (80%) of the respondents was in between LKR 5,000-10,000. All of them were alcoholic and 70% of them consume toddy with other beverages. Eighty present take alcohol every day. Tavern was the common place of toddy consumption. Seventy six percent responded that the general hygienic practice at the tavern was unsatisfactory. Majority (90%) of them were of the view that even though consuming alcohol is harmful to the liver, eating well would protect them. Nobody was aware of ALA or its aetiology and the mode of transmission of ALA. This study reveals that the KAP towards ALA was poor among the studied patients. The study also suggests that consuming toddy at taverns may pose a risk for ALA, in addition to the poor socio-economic status. This warrants for a public awareness program on ALA in addition to a case control study to establish the risk factors of ALA.

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