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Salmonella in some seafoods in Alexandria markets

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Food borne diseases are the most wide spread health problem in the world and they have implication both on health and development. *Salmonella spp*., are significant microbial hazards in seafood and rapid detection of *Salmonella* is an important criterion in quality control of seafood. This study aimed to determine the percentage of *Salmonella* in seafood from some markets in Alexandria and to study the validity of CHRO Magar *Salmonella* Plus medium versus conventional method; Xylose Lysine Desoxycholate (XLD) and *Salmonella-Shigella* (SS) agar for the isolation and identification of *Salmonella* in some sea foods. This study included 225 seafood samples that were obtained from local markets in different districts of Alexandria. The 225 seafood samples included shrimp, gandofli and River mussel (om-khloul) 75 samples each. Each sample was cultured after enrichment in Rappaport-Vassiliadis broth and tetrathionate broth for the detection of *Salmonella* on each of CHRO Magar *Salmonella* Plus medium versus the conventional culture media (XLD and SS agar). Suspected colonies were detected and confirmed both biochemically and serologically. A total of 22 seafood samples (9.8%) were positive for *Salmonella* by using the three different plating media. Its presence reflects the prevalence of the organism in sea food or the bad hygienic quality of seafood. CHRO Magar *Salmonella* Plus medium plated with samples previously enriched in Rappaport-Vassiliadis broth showed the highest senitivity and specificity of 95.45% and 100% respectively. The accuracy of SS agar after enrichment in TT was 42.2% and increased to 92.4% after enrichment in RV. CHRO Magar *Salmonella* Plus medium was found to be more valuable than XLD and SS in the detection of *Salmonella* from seafood samples. It provides a time saving method for the detection and presumptive identification of *Salmonella* from sea food specimens. Interpretation of colors was easy and all colonies of *Salmonella* tested displayed the same color and morphology.

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A study on tobacco use among medical students in Chennai

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Background: Tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced and it is the single largest preventable cause of death and disability worldwide.

Objectives: The objectives of this study were to estimate the prevalence of tobacco use and to measure the extent of knowledge, attitude and behavior of tobacco usage among third year medical students.

Methods: A community based cross sectional study was conducted at medical colleges in Chennai. A total of 479 medical students participated in the study. Demographics, prevalence of tobacco use, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, attitude, behavior/cessation and curriculum/training were collected using GHPSS questionnaire (Global Health Professions Student Survey) and the results were analyzed.

Results: The prevalence of ever tried cigarette smoking was 10.9% and ever used smokeless tobacco was 1.9%. The prevalence of current cigarette smoking was 4.8% and current smokeless tobacco use was 1.0%. The prevalence of exposure to smoke at home was 34.2% and at public places was 50.3%. Majority of students were towards banning sale of tobacco products. About 95.2% of the students said health professional should serve as a role model for the patients and get specific training on cessation techniques.

Conclusion: The prevalence of tobacco use was high among male students. Majority of the students' attitude were to ban tobacco sale.

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