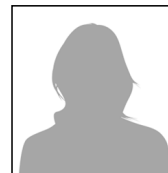


Assessing diabetes mellitus knowledge among Syrian medical students: A cross-sectional study

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Abstract

Diabetes mellitus is the fastest growing global health emergency of the 21st century. The Middle East and North Africa region have the highest prevalence of diabetes in the world. Since medical students are the pillars of future healthcare systems, their knowledge of the disease must be evaluated, updated, and enhanced appropriately. A cross-sectional study was conducted at the Syrian Private University (SPU) in November 2019 on World Diabetes Day in Damascus, during the Syrian war crisis. Data were collected through self-administered questionnaires and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 25.0 (SPSS Inc., United States). Of the 275 students, 74(26.9%) were preclinical students and 201(73%) were clinical students with a mean age of 21.9(±3.70) years. 67(25.0%) are overweight, and 26(9.7%) are obese. Students revealed a good level of knowledge regarding clinical features, risk factors, and complications; however, a lack of knowledge was noticed in the general information and the diagnostic criteria section. Clinical year students (4th, 5th, 6th) demonstrated higher levels of awareness compared to students in pre-clinical years (1st, 2nd, 3rd). Knowledge and awareness of medical students about diabetes mellitus were found to have some gaps. Health education efforts are required to reinforce its identification and management at all levels, while also encouraging lifestyle modifications among our students.

Biography

Humam studied natural science and Philosophy at the University of South Florida in the US, and went on to work as an IT consultant, including a stint at Apple. He is currently at final year medical student at SPU in Damascus.



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