Title: Health education needs assessment to promotion of infection control and environmental health situation in dental offices of Tabriz

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Abstract: Background and aim: According to the studies about infection control and considering the nature of occupation of dentistry, it seems there is high potential of infection hazard for dentists and dental assistants. Regardless of considerable number of studies conducted in this filed in the world; unfortunately there are very limited studies in the field of education for the health promotion in Iran. This study aimed to specify the priorities of health education via determining of current situation of infection control, environmental health and the implementation of the principals of prevention in dental offices of Tabriz.

Materials and Methods: During the study, 130 dental offices were selected randomly from different regions of Tabriz city, and a checklist was completed for each office during the visiting. The collected data was analyzed using SPSS. Based on the results, the priorities of health education were selected and ranked.

Results: According to achieved results, more than 90% of dental offices had good conditions in terms of structural status, access to safe water, sanitation, lighting and room temperature. Dentists were most compliant with the wearing of disposable gloves (90.8%), face masks (90.8%) and protective garments (96.9%) and least compliant with wearing eye shields (69.2%). Vaccination rate of personals against the hepatitis B was more than 90%. However, disposal condition of sharps and medical wastes as hazardous wastes were undesirable.

Conclusion: The most important challenge in the surveyed dental offices was the improper disposal of sharps and medical wastes. This may indicate the weakness of medical and hospital wastes management in the country and need for educational programs in this area. So, the infectious and sharp waste management can have the highest priority for educational programs. Also, developing the educational programs to promote the personal hygiene, radiation protection and use sterile instruments are the next priorities to achieve the health promotion goals.

Health education, Dental offices, Environmental health, Infection control, Tabriz

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