Abstract: Abstract:

Background and aims: Viral hepatitis type B is a world wide public health problem of major concern. HBV is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. An estimated one third of the world’s population has been infected. That is also an important health problem in The Islamic Republic of Iran. Development and implementation of effective clinical and public health prevention strategies for hepatitis B are predicated on an understanding of the knowledge and attitude among people regarding hepatitis B, in particular, of health managers who have an important role in planning and implementation of those strategies. This article reports the knowledge, risk perceptions and behavioral intentions for hepatitis B infection and their correlates among a group of health managers in Iran.

Methods: The target population for this survey was health managers of Yazd Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Sciences. A questionnaire was developed to measure knowledge, Risk perceptions and behavioral intentions for hepatitis B among subjects. It’s validity and reliability was examined by pilot testing of the questionnaire and computing Cronbach’s coefficient. All of the health managers (160 persons) completed the questionnaire. Data were analyzed Using SPSS software.

Results: The average summary of knowledge, general and personal risk perceptions, total risk perceptions, and behavioral intentions scores were 6.4±.94, 25.43± 3.2, 8.63 ±1.6, 34.06 ± 3.5 and 13.64 ± 3.0 respectively. General risk perceptions, personal risk perceptions and total risk perceptions were significantly related to behavioral intentions for hepatitis B at 0.01 levels but its correlation with knowledge was not statistically significant. General and personal risk perceptions together accounted for 10.3% of the variation in behavioral intentions for hepatitis B. General risk perception was the only statistically significant predictor of behavioral intentions for hepatitis B.

Conclusion: Although health managers, have an acceptable level of knowledge, general and personal risk perceptions but their level of behavioral intentions to hepatitis B is not at sufficient level. The results of this study identified that which part of health manager’s knowledge level and also risk perceptions is not at sufficient level and should be emphasized in educational and interventional programs.

Key Words: Hepatitis B, Knowledge, Risk perceptions, Behavioral intentions.

Presentation: Poster