

# Assessment of Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Sources of Information regarding Viral Hepatitis B and C Virus among Trainees Healthcare Professional in Nigeria

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## BACKGROUND

The risk of clinical exposure of hepatitis B (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV) virus especially among trainee health care professionals is a major concern. In Nigeria, little report is available on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) regarding HBV and HCV in this group and regrettably, viral hepatitis education, pre-exposure vaccination and voluntary testing programs have not been adequately funded. As such viral hepatitis has recorded inadequate attention from the government. Hence, the study aims to assess KAP regarding HBV and HCV among Dental Therapy clinical students of Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy, Enugu – Nigeria; and how personal and family history foster vaccination and safe practices. This information which will aid in planning effective health education for all levels of students, and foster surveillance and evidence based policy toward *implementing the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis (GHSS) 2016-2021 and the elimination of hepatitis as a public health threat.*

## CONCLUSIONS

KAP of trainee health professionals play a significant role in the prevention, early detection, treatment and control of the HBV and HCV infection. Therefore, it is pertinent to increase the level of knowledge of this group by making such trainings part of their curriculum.

## METHODS

A cross-sectional survey was conducted using a structured questionnaire. OpenEpi Version 3.01 was used to calculate the sample size of 222 in a population of 500 Dental Therapy clinical students at a 97% confidence interval. Data was analyzed using STATA version 13.0

## REFERENCES

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## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author's certify that they have NO affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest (such as honoraria; educational grants; consultancies; membership, stock ownership) or other equity

## RESULTS

A total of 250 respondents were sampled including 140 300level and 110 400level students with 196 (78.4%) response rate. The age group was 18-29 years and the mean age was 27.3. The gender distributions were 36 (18.37%) males and 160 (81.63%) females. Based on previous similar studies, a benchmark of  $\geq 80\%$  is considered adequate. The knowledge level of the respondents in 10 out of 11 questions was below  $\leq 80\%$ . 87.24% of the respondents agree that there is a diagnostic test for HBV or HCV. Out of the 7 questions on attitude toward HBV or HCV infection and risk perception, 5 had response rate  $< 80\%$  while 90.31% considered changing gloves after attending to each patient not a waste of time and 85.20% agreed that following infection control guidelines will protect from being infected with HBV or HCV. The result further revealed poor practice measures in HBV or HCV prevention and health seeking behaviours. Health workers were the major source of information at 76.53% and the church the lowest at 14.8%.

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