

Assessment of Intern Students' Attitudes towards Medical Errors

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Abstract : With the acceleration and assessment of quality and patient safety works in healthcare services in the 21st century, activities to reduce errors have gained importance. The prevention and reduction of unintended consequences related to healthcare services and errors made during the delivery of healthcare services can be achieved by understanding the causes of the errors. Communication is the basic reason most frequently seen in such cases. Nurses who communicate with patients more closely and for longer time play a more critical role in ensuring patient safety compared to other healthcare professionals. To reduce the risk of medical errors and increase the quality of care, it is important to raise the awareness of nurses about patient safety in training period. This descriptive study was conducted between February 2017 and May 2017 to assess intern students' attitudes towards and knowledge of patient safety and medical errors. The target population of the study consists of intern students at the Faculty of Nursing in Gaziantep University (N=180). The study did not apply any sample selection method, and the research group consisted of 90 female and 37 male senior students who were available and accepted to take part in the study (N=127). The study used personal information form and medical error attitude scale to collect data. The medical error attitude scale consists of 16 items and 3 sub-dimensions. The most frequently seen medical error in the clinics the interns worked at was found as 'Failure to comply with asepsis rules' with a rate of 67,7%. The most frequent case among reasons for not disclosing an error is 'noticing and correcting the error before affecting the patient' with the rate of 70,9%. The most frequently expressed implications of disclosing a serious error for the intern students participating in the study are 'harming patient trust (78%)' and 'possibility of overreaction by patient (62,2%)'. According to the results of the study, the awareness of the students about the importance of medical errors and error reporting was found high ($3,48 \pm 0,49$). Consequently, it is important to assess and positively improve the attitudes of nurses and other healthcare professionals towards medical errors for the determination of causes of medical errors and their prevention.

Keywords : healthcare service, intern student, medical error, patient safety

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