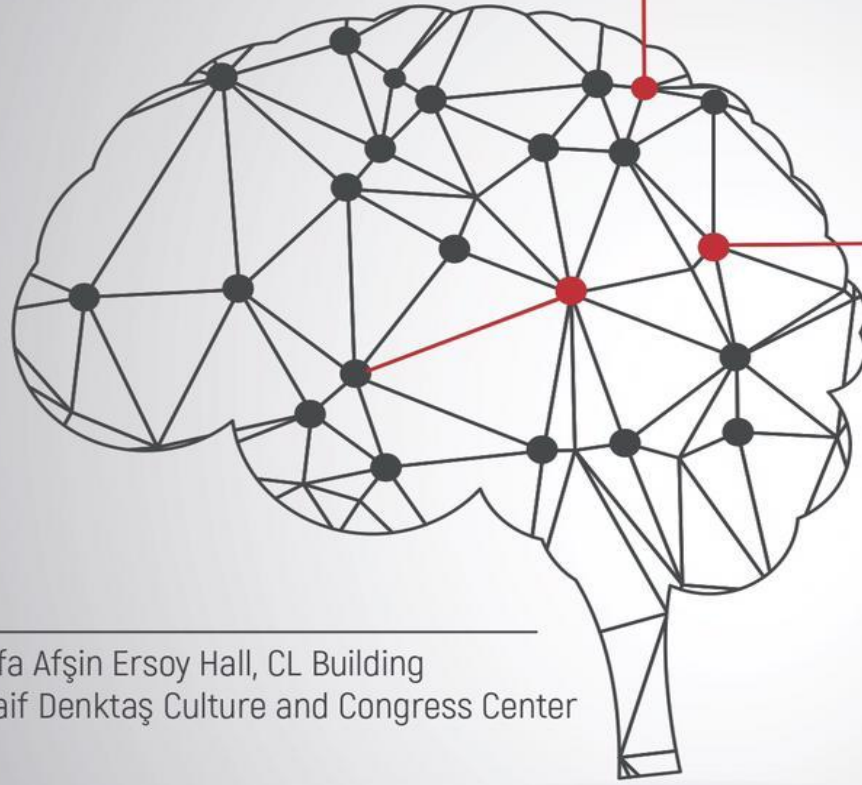**Eastern Mediterranean University**

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" Multidisciplinary Approaches to Psychiatry in 21st Century "

20-22 May 2022

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Ege HALICILAR
+90 (505) 036 33 95
ege.halicilar01@gmail.com

EMIMSC President
İrem OBEN
+90 (533) 841 88 55
iremoben@hotmail.com

EMIMSC General Secretary
Cemran TÜRKOĞULLARI
+90 (533) 876 75 95
turkogullaricemran@gmail.com

EMIMSC Communication Directors & PR
Dilem ÖMERAĞA
+90 (548) 858 36 20
dilemdilos@hotmail.com

Sıla YALIN
+90 (542) 879 18 47
silayalin3@gmail.com

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EASTERN MEDITTERANEAN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL STUDENTS CONGRESS ABSTRACT BOOK

20-21-22 May 2022

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ORAL PRESENTATIONS

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

ABSTRACTS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

ATTITUDES OF EMU MEDICAL STUDENTS ON ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE AND SPIRITUAL HEALING METHODS

Batkan S.*, Sağdinç S.*, Karadal A.*, Alkan B.*, Ceylan E.*, Norouzbahari M.**
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Cyprus, First Year Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Cyprus

Introduction: Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine (CAIM) consists of primitive practices that bring a holistic approach to medicine and are not a part of allopathic medicine. This study aims to determine the attitudes of EMU medical students on CAIM and Spiritual Healing Techniques.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted among EMU phase 1 medical students, between December 2021 and May 2022. An online questionnaire was distributed which consisted of two parts, namely, demographics (5 questions) and self-administered questions (12 questions). Data analysis was carried out on SPSS, and Chi-Square test was applied. The questionnaire measured the dependent variable; attitudes of EMU medical students on CAIM and Spiritual Healing Techniques, by asking the independent variables as questions: integrating CAIM and Spiritual Healing Techniques into the modern curriculum, whether practicing CAIM techniques in their future profession or not, their most preferred and least preferred techniques, and effect of religion on their attitude.

Results: A total of 111 responses were gathered with a response rate of 62.36%. The population included 59.5% females and 40.5% males. Mean age of respondents was 20.03 with a standard deviation $\pm$ 1.47. Majority of participants were Muslim followed by none believers and the minority composed of Christians, Agnostics and Atheists. 90% of students heard of CAIM and spiritual healing techniques. The most preferred technique was found to be yoga whereas the least was Neuro-Linguistic Programming. 50.4% of students wanted to integrate CAIM techniques into medical curriculum and 64.86% would use such techniques in their future profession. Their choice of religion showed no significant effect on their use of CAIM and Spiritual Healing Techniques.

Conclusion: General attitudes of EMU medical students were positive towards CAIM and Spiritual Healing Techniques. Integration to allopathic medicine was perceived as effective. According to the open-ended questions, most preferred use of such techniques for psychological reasons, well-being, and relaxation.

Keywords: Complementary, Alternative (and Integrative) Medicine (CAM/CAIM)**,** Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine (CAIM), Spiritual Healing Techniques, Alternative Medicine, Allopathic Medicine.

OP-01

THE ASSOCIATION OF PERSONALITY TYPES ON SPECIALITY CHOICE OF MEDICAL STUDENTS IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY

Babacan K.*, Ghashim L.*, Şahdur B.*, Kuyucuoğlu M.*, Nwoye L.*, Tuzcu İ.*, Efekan H.**

* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First-Year Students.
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction

Medicine is a discipline known for its various specialty options. Medical students often struggle to select the most suitable specialty field for themselves. This issue is often associated with various factors, one of them being personality types. Thus, evaluating those factors become crucial when bringing an understanding of this issue.

Objective

To evaluate medical students' personality types and associate them with their desired medical specialty.

Methods

This cross-sectional study included 180 pre-clinical students. A digital questionnaire which was separated into three sections was used to evaluate the participants' demographics, personality type, and specialty choices respectively. Throughout the procedure, a simple random sampling method was adopted and the whole population was tried to be reached. The results were statistically analyzed using SPSS 26 and Excel software. The Chi-square test was applied and $p < 0.05$ was considered significant.

Results

Overall, 180 students were invited and 107 students responded. 45 (42.1%) of the participants were males, 61 (57.0%) were females, and only 1 (0.9%) participant preferring not to specify their gender. As for the specialty choices, 56 students preferred surgical medical sciences, 37 students preferred clinical medical sciences, and 11 students preferred basic medical sciences. Significant associations were found between the JP (judging-perceiving) dichotomy and basic medical sciences (p=0.035), IE (introvert-extrovert) dichotomy and clinical medical sciences (p=0.005), JP dichotomy, and clinical medical sciences (p=0.001), TF (thinking-feeling) dichotomy, and surgical medical sciences (p=0.033).

Conclusion

Surgical fields were the main preference of students and the basic medical sciences were the least preferred option in all study years. The Judging students were more likely to prefer basic medical sciences and clinical medical sciences, introverts were more likely to prefer clinical fields, and feeling students were more likely to prefer surgical medical sciences as a field of specialization.

Keywords: Medical Specialty Choice, Personality Types, Open Extended Jungian Type Scale (OEJTS).

OP-02

PERFECTIONISM AND ITS CORRELATION WITH MENTAL STATUS AMONG PRE-CLINICAL EMU MEDICAL STUDENTS

Özerbaş B.S*, Köksal B*, Karasu Ç.A*, Lakadamyalı D*, Hacımevlut K*, Ashhab Y*, Akçay N.İ**

* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First Year Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction
Perfectionism is defined as a desire to be or appear perfect, or even to believe that perfection can be achieved. Although perfectionism is often seen as a desirable trait that increases one's chances of success, it can also lead to self-defeating attitudes or habits that make achieving any goal much more difficult. Having a perfectionist attitude may cause mental health issues such as sadness, tension, and worrying. Perfectionism's impacts are especially important among students pursuing medical education which is a long and exhausting procedure. The purpose of this study was to assess the levels of perfectionism, measure the negative emotional states of depression, anxiety and stress, and to evaluate the correlation between perfectionism and these mental problems.

Methods
Pre-clinical phase medical students (N=179) were invited to participate this cross-sectional study, where a questionnaire was used as data collection tool. In addition to asking for their demographic characteristics; two pre-prepared and validated scales, Frost Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale (FMPS) and Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS-21) were applied for measuring the perfectionism level and the negative emotional states of depression, anxiety and stress, respectively. IBM SPSS v26 were used as the data analysis tool, where descriptive and comparative analyses were performed.

Results
With a response rate of 67.03% (n=118), FMPS overall score mean was 106.81±20.26 out of 175, and DASS-21 overall score mean was 30.38±13.21 out of 63. 28.8% of the participants showed signs of moderate depression and stress, while 54.2% of them showed signs of severe anxiety. DASS-21 scores, 'Concern over mistakes' and 'Concern with order' subdimensions of perfectionism were found to be significantly higher among females than males. Lastly, an intermediate and significant relationship was detected between FMPS and DASS-21 scores (r=0.589, p<0.0001).

Conclusion
The results indicate that perfectionism levels of medical students are significantly correlated with levels of negative emotional states of depression, anxiety and stress.

Keywords: Perfectionism, Depression, Anxiety, Stress, Medical Students,

OP-03

UNDERSTANDING VACCINE HESITANCY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TOWARDS COVID-19 VACCINES AMONG OTHER VACCINES

Authors: Cangert İ.Y.*, Çakan K.*, Çalışkan A.A.*, Derin M.E.*, Erdoğan M.Z.*, Sabah G.*, Güran M.**
*Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Year 2 Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, T.R.N.C.

Introduction: COVID-19 pandemic, which emerged in 2019, spread rapidly around the world, causing many deaths. The aim of our study is to analyze the reasons for anti-vaccination, which is frequently popularized both in the society and media during the COVID-19 pandemic, by comparing it with other well-known vaccines.

Methods: A comparative survey was prepared including 22 questions and 325 Eastern Mediterranean University students answered them face to face. Participation in the survey was voluntarily and a consent form was signed by the participants before their participation. Personal information of everyone who participated in the survey was kept confidential. The obtained data was analyzed with biostatistical methods by using SPSS v22.0 software.

Results: 325 people attended to our survey. 162 of the responders were male, 150 were female and 12 were non-binary. The response rate was 86.2%. The responders' education levels were as follows; 88% undergraduate, 9% pre-university, 2% masters, and 1% PhD. The full vaccination rate of respondents was 33% for Covid-19, %25 for Tetanus, 25% for Smallpox, and 27% for Influenza. 38% of the participants reported that they had Covid-19 disease. The responders' average vaccine knowledge score was calculated as 31.63% which is very low. 70.78% of participants had positive attitudes towards all vaccines.

Conclusion: Knowledge and attitude scores indicate that even though participants don't know much about vaccination, they have positive attitudes about vaccines. Vaccine hesitancy was not common in our population which is possibly related to education level and young age of our   participants.

Keywords: COVID-19**,** Vaccines, Vaccine hesitancy

OP-04

ANTIPROLIFERATIVE EFFECT OF THYMOQUINONE AND CISPLATIN COMBINATION ON HUMAN BREAST CANCER CELL LINE (MCF-7)

Özbal B. S.*, Beder B.*, Çetin H. Z.*, Helwa M.*, Helwa Z.*, Keçeli R.*, Özkoç M**, Altundağ E. M.**
*Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Biochemistry

Purpose: Breast cancer is the second most common cause of death and the most frequently diagnosed cancer type among women in the world. Classical chemotherapy remains the standard of breast cancer treatment, with toxicity and resistance being major limitations. Cisplatin (CDDP), a widely used chemotherapeutic agent, often leads to drug resistance in MCF-7 breast cancer cell line. Thymoquinone (TQ), a well-known anticancer flavonoid, is a phytochemical compound found in Nigella sativa. Whether TQ potentiates the cytotoxic effects of CDDP and overcomes CDDP resistance in MCF-7 cells has not been reported yet. In this study, we aimed to increase CDDP-induced antiproliferative effect in MCF-7 cells with the combination of TQ to overcome the CDDP resistance.

Material and Methods: MCF-7 cells were treated with the various concentrations of TQ, CDDP, and their combination (TQ+CDDP) for 24h. Cytotoxic effects on MCF-7 cells were measured with MTT assay and observed by crystal violet staining. Half-maximal inhibitory concentrations (IC50) and combination index (CI) values were calculated with the Compusyn Software Program. Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA, followed by Dunnett's multiple comparisons test.

Results: TQ and CDDP showed antiproliferative effects against MCF-7 cells with IC50 values at 58 μM and 32 μM for 24h, respectively. IC50 of TQ+CDDP was 49 μM for 24h. The IC50 of CDDP significantly reduced after TQ combined and TQ+CDDP were shown a nearly additive effect (CI=1.10) on MCF-7.

Conclusion: This study shows that TQ potentiates CDDP-induced antiproliferative effect on MCF-7 breast cancer cell line and their combinations may overcome the CDDP resistance. TQ and CDDP combination may be an appropriate therapeutic approach against breast cancer and may represent a valuable field of future research.

Keywords: Antiproliferative Effect, Thymoquinone, Cisplatin, MCF-7

OP-05

THE EFFECT OF PEER PRESSURE ON CONFORMITY AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS - A GLUTE INJECTION TASK

Soler M.*, Khan A.*, Yasavur D.*, Ömer B.A.*, Yavuz S.*, Bayhan E.K.*, Özkoç M.**
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First Year Medical Students
**Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Biochemistry

Introduction
The establishment of collaborative interactions is a necessity of medical education. However, the functionality of these collaborations may be restrained by a well-known phenomenon of social psychology called conformity, especially due to peer pressure in group settings. We aimed to find out if a group of medical students suggesting an incorrect location for glute injection could lead EMU medical students to conform and suggest the same incorrect location for glute injection even though they knew the rest of the group was wrong.

Methods
This study involved two stages: Experimental and observational phases. In the experimental phase, 65 medical students from year 1 to 3 were assigned to either one of the 12 critical trials or 8 control trials. One of the participants of critical trials were randomly allocated as genuine participants (participants who experienced peer pressure) and the rest as confederates. Furthermore, at the end of the experimental phase, all participants were provided with a validated questionnaire containing short measures of peer pressure and peer conformity.

Results
Response rate was 94.2% with 65 students (41 female; 63.1%). Overall, the genuine participants in critical trials were more likely to suggest the least appropriate quadrant for glute injection when compared with control trials (n=6, 50.0 vs. n=0, 0.0%), Fisher's exact test ($p=0.042$). However, no significant difference was found between the behaviours of participants during the experiment and the total scores received from the peer pressure and conformity questionnaires when the Mann-Whitney U test was carried out ($p=0.589$)

Conclusion
This study demonstrates that medical students might show conformity by performing incorrect glute injection due to peer pressure. It implies that further research must be carried out into the effects of conformity and peer pressure in medical education.

Keywords: Peer pressure, Medical students, Conformity

OP-06

FACE MASK USAGE AND SKIN PROBLEMS DURING SARS-COV-2 PANDEMIC: A SURVEY TO ANALYZE KNOWLEDGE AND HABITS ON FACE MASK USAGE AND ITS IMPACT ON FACIAL SKIN PROBLEMS AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Dalokay F.*, Acaban D.*, Akkaya F.H.*, Dalokay F.*, Tuncay H.A.*, Özel E.K.*, Özkaloğlu M.*, Güran M.**
* Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Medicine, Year 3
**Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Medicine, Associate Professor of Medical Microbiology

Face mask usage is one of the essential prevention strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prolonged face mask use can lead to increased skin infections. This study aims to evaluate the frequency of key bacterial and fungal microorganisms as risk factor for infectious dermatological problems and their relation to long-term face mask usage in the era of the current pandemic.

In this descriptive study, cross-sectional survey among students was carried out. In addition to the questionnaire, skin swab samples were also collected from the participants and examined for the presence of various pathogens by microbiological techniques. Data were analysed with IBM SPSS Statistics 22. Our dependent variables were chronic skin problems before and during pandemic whereas our independent variables were mask usage habits.

Total of 128 students from different faculties participated in research. There were 54.7% females and 45.3% males. 70% of the women had experienced skin problems whereas only 37.9% men experienced skin problems due to mask usage (p=0.000). Most common mask type was surgical mask by 58.6%. The results obtained from knowledge related questions were scored and half of the respondents were placed in "low knowledge" band. Among all types of masks, surgical-type masks were found to be significantly related with skin infections (p=0.019). Most of the people wearing surgical mask had experienced skin problems due to masks itself rather than how much layers they use (p=0.010). Duration of mask use was not significantly related to skin infections. Respondents reported that, skin problems such as acne, allergy, facial itching and redness has surged dramatically. Microbiological skin sampling demonstrated an abundancy in numbers of key dermatological pathogens isolated from students who reported dermatological complains.

Our research illustrated that there are some key parameters which may initiate the increase of dermatologic infections in the current pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19, mask usage, infections

OP-07

THE NON-METASTATIC NEUROLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF SYSTEMIC CANCER; SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Balcı Y.*, Kahveci N.*, Aghazadeh G.S.*, Baran P.*, Mousavi S.B.*, Arat M.T.*, Eker A.**
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Year 3 Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Objective/Background: Cancer affects the nervous system frequently bringing considerable amounts of neurologic complications. Additionally, different treatments for cancer can also be damaging to the nervous system. Neurological complications -outside the nervous system can be disabling and sometimes fatal. The main aim of this study is to determine which neurological complications are seen among adult systemic cancer patients and the frequency of neurological symptoms among those cancer patients.

Materials and Methods: In this systematic review research, a total of 175 studies including case series, cohort, cross-sectional and randomized trials were used. The sample of this study has been obtained by finding related articles to this topic from six different databases including PubMed, Google Scholar, WOS, EBSCO, Scopus, and Dergipark. We used SPSS for statistical analysis.

Results: Our results indicate that the most frequently reported neurological complications are associated with treatment (66,5%). Cancer-associated complications and paraneoplastic complications follow this with the percentages of 20,8%, and 12,7% respectively. According to our systemic review, the most commonly reported treatment-related complications are chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) (23%), decline in cognitive function (21,5), immune involvement of the nervous system (20,7%), and encephalopathy (10.7%). Treatment-related complications are mainly reported with chemotherapy and the new immune treatments for cancer. The main cancer-associated complication is ischemic stroke in this review. The systemic cancers associated with neurological deficits are hematological (20.5%), breast (18.1%), lung (16.9%), and genitourinary (14.2%).

Conclusion:. Treatment-related complications are common in cancer patients. CIPN was the most frequently reported treatment-related neurological complication. Besides, recently reported cognitive impairments, immunotherapy-related immune involvements of the nervous system and paraneoplastic syndromes can be underestimated but need particular attention. These findings suggest that cancer and its treatment cause different neurological problems; hence, prompt monitoring and detection can enhance patients' life quality.

Keywords: Neurological complications, non-metastatic complication, systemic cancer

OP-08

ATTITUDES OF EMU HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS ON ORGAN DONATION

Mahmutoğlu İ.*, Kısaçam D.* Çiçekseven M.*, Kardaş S. N.*, Kadiroğulları M.*, Abdurrahimoğlu A.*, Atasoylu A. **

* 2nd year Medical Student, Faculty of Medicine, Eastern Mediterranian University, Famagusta, North Cyprus
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, internal doctor

Introduction

Organ transplantation is a life-saving intervention which depends on public awareness, the availability of donor organs and the diversity of the organ pool. Willingness to be an organ donor is influenced by knowledge, attitudes and social opinion. Medical professionals play an important role in educating the public on organ donation. Our study aimed to investigate attitudes toward organ donation of health sciences students at Eastern Mediterranean University, and to determine how these attitudes are affected by knowledge, trust, fear and religion.

Materials and Methods

Using a cross-sectional study design, 323 EMU health sciences students were surveyed. The study population was calculated using OpenEpi to achieve significance level of 95%. The 20-question survey collected demographic information and assessed organ donation related knowledge, attitudes, trust, fear and the influence of religion on the decision to be an organ donor. Data was analyzed using Chi square tests in IBM SPSS STATISTICS VERSION 26.

Results

We achieved a response rate of 76.2%. Respondents were mostly female (n=166), of İslamic religion (79.1%), Turkish or Cypriot nationality, and a mean age of 21.5. 93% were willing to be organ donors. The majority (n =152) heard about organ donation from internet. Nearly half were willing to donate the organs of a brain dead relative. While saving life was the top reason to be an organ donor (n=201), unwillingness was associated with concern for disfigured body, and mistrust of organ donation system. There was no significant association between religion, and if religious beliefs prohibited organ donation (Chi square $p>0.05$).

Conclusions

Raising public awareness and education is needed to increase organ donation. Health sciences students can play a key role in this effort. Future studies are needed to understand the impact of religion on the decision to be an organ donor.

Keywords: organ donation, willingness, gender, religion

OP-09

KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF INTENSIVE CARE NURSES TOWARDS BRAIN DEATH IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

Türkoğulları C.*, Ömerağa D.*, Karol H*, Koruk İ.*, Alanlı İ.*, Oben İ.*, Taşargöl Ö.**, Eker A.***
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, 2nd Year Student
** Dr. Burhan Nalbantoğlu State Hospital, Anesthesiology and Reanimation
***Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Neurology

Introduction

Brain death is irreversible damage of the all brain and brain stem activities due to the cessation of cerebral circulation. Rapid and accurate diagnosis of brain death is an important responsibility, both medically and legally. The fact that patients diagnosed with brain death are potential organ transplant candidates makes this issue even more important. This study aimed to evaluate the knowledge and perceptions of intensive care unit(ICU) nurses in Northern Cyprus about the brain death.

Material & Methods

This cross-sectional study was conducted between November 2021 and May 2022 at State Hospitals General ICU's in Northern Cyprus. The study approved by Dr. Burhan Nalbanoğlu State Hospital ethical committee. Study population is all ICU Nurses. SPSS is used to calculate mean, standard deviation and frequencies. Kruskal-Wallis Test is used for the comparisons. The value of $p<0.05$ is accepted as statistically significant.

Results

62,5% of the study population graduated from nursing with bachelor degree. Non of the ICU nurses have education about brain death. 75% of them indicated the right criteria for brain death. 67.2% of the study population think that their knowledge isn't enough. 43.8% not sure or don't believe that brain death is a real death. The ICU working year range of nurses was 1-18 years(mean 6,8). There isn't any association between the last institute of graduation and correct identification of criteria of brain death and identifying brain death as a real death (p-value >0.05).

Conclusion

This study shows that the ICU Nurses without any education on brain death have satisfying knowledge on brain death diagnosis. Whereas, it's interesting to observe that nearly half of them aren't sure about the certainty of brain death as a real death. Thus this study suggests periodic educations on brain death identification and also its meaning.

Keywords: Brain death, nurses, intensive care unit, knowledge, perception

OP-10

DISCRIMINATIVE ROLE OF NEUROCOGNITIVE TESTS IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND CLASSIFICATION OF DEMENTIA: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY IN A LARGE COHORT

Saral N.*, Azizoğlu B.*, Albayrak Ç.*, Meşeli A.T.*, Aktuğlu S.A.*, Khdeir M.* . Eker A.**
*Eastern Mediterranean University Dr. Fazıl Küçük Faculty of Medicine Year 3
**Eastern Mediterranean University Dr. Fazıl Küçük Faculty of Medicine, Department of Neurology

Background and Objectives: Dementia is defined as an acquired syndrome involving impaired cognitive function which impacts several aspects of daily life. Neurocognitive tests can be extremely useful in the detection, diagnosis, and follow-up of dementia syndromes. In this study, our aim is to find similarities and differences between test results of dementia and Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) patient and between different dementia types.

Materials and Methods:
We have conducted a retrospective cohort study approved by EMU ethical committee. Our data that including demographics and neurocognitive tests are obtained from the EMU Faculty of Medicine Neurology dementia clinic archive between 2011-2021. Chi-square and One Way Anova tests are used for analysis via SPSS v26. The value of $p<0.05$ is accepted as statistically significant.

Results:
In this study, out of 265 patients, 207 have dementia and 58 have MCI. The average (Mini-mental State Exam)MMSE score is 17.93 for dementia patients and 25.79 for MCI patients. Semantic fluency decline and Trail A attention test dysfunction are observed both in dementia and MCI (p-value >0.05).. Visuospatial skill dysfunction is seen 43.1% in MCI and 85% in the dementia patients (p-value <0.05). Enhanced Cue Recall Memory Test mean score in Vascular Dementia(VD) is 38.75 and 24.69 in Alzheimer Disease(AD). Majority of VD and Lewy Body Dementia(LBD) patients displayed Trail A attention dysfunction. Semantic fluency and categorical fluency tests are seen to be mainly impaired in Frontotemporal Dementia(FTD).

Conclusion:
Different neurocognitive tests can be used to differentiate dementia types and MCI from dementia. However, some tests such as Trail A and semantic fluency test are highly impaired in MCI as in dementia, and such patients can be followed up closely as there is a high risk of developing dementia. Trail A attention. semantic fluency and categorical fluency tests are useful in the discrimination of LBD and FTD.

Keywords: Dementia, MCI, neurocognitive tests

OP-11

CARDIOVASCULAR DEATHS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS BETWEEN 2015 AND 2020: A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION BASED ON FORENSIC AUTOPSY REPORTS

Ahmet S.[*], Aksahin D.[*], Cuce A.[*], Erol C.[*], Ozdemir D.[*], Akcay NI.[**], Cerci Ongun B.[**], Ceker D.[**, ***], Deniz I.[***]

[*]Eastern Mediterranean University, Dr. Fazıl Küçük Faculty of Medicine, Year 3 Students
[**]Eastern Mediterranean University, Dr. Fazıl Küçük Faculty of Medicine
[***]Dr. Burhan Nalbantoğlu State Hospital, Forensic Medicine Unit, Nicosia

Introduction: Sudden cardiac death (SCD) is an important problem concerning public health. Autopsy studies and forensic pathology examination have proven to be crucial to diagnose SCD. Regarding SCDs, this study aimed to evaluate epidemiological data and etiological distribution, investigate the most common pathologies, and interpret correlations if there is any.

Material and Methods: The present retrospective study selected a total of 304 sudden cardiac death cases from 918 forensic autopsy reports filed between 2015 and 2020. Demographic data, anthropometric data, cause of death and it's contributing factors, gross features of the cardiovascular system were generated. Data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel and SPSS.

Results: There were 242 (79.6%) male and 62 (20.4%) female. The mean age of decedents was 57.91 ± 13.73 years. Of 304 decedents, 77% had BMI above normal. New & old myocardial infarction was reported as the most common cause with 158 (52.14%) cases. There is a significant relationship between cardiomegaly and BMI ($p<0.05$, $\rho=0.325$) observed in 153 decedents. The most frequent stenosed artery was Cx (n=132). Depending on the degree, 77.65% of the coronary arteries were severely stenosed. Both in old and new MIs, the anterior wall of left ventricle constituted the majority with 50.4% and 52.3% respectively, then the posterior wall with 41.7% and 38.7% after it. Following an acute MI, only 3.35% had ruptured myocardium. Out of 115 problematic heart valves, 89 (77.39%) aortic and 26 (22.61%) mitral heart valves had one or more of valvular problems. There were 21 aortic rupture cases.

Conclusion: Making an early diagnosis and performing early intervention of cardiovascular diseases would reduce the mortality of SCD. Emphasis should be put on preventable determinants, and the importance of checkup for those aged 40 and over.

Keywords: Northern Cyprus, Forensic Autopsy, Retrospective Analysis, Cardiovascular Deaths

OP-12

ABSTRACTS

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

INVESTIGATING PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING OF MEDICAL STUDENTS OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY DURING COVID-19

Akkuş M.*, Gazi B.*, Karaağaç Ç.G.*, Karahan B.*, Toliyat F.*, Dinçyürek H.**
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First Year Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic had an important impact on the mental health of people in most countries around the world. The pandemic and the lockdown it brought together caused some mental issues such as stress and anxiety. Medical students were also affected by this situation. For these reasons, the objective of this study was to investigate the mental health problems of medical students in EMU&MU during the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown.

Methods

The method of data collection in this qualitative study was a semi structured interview, done face to face and online, that consists of 6-8 open-ended questions written by researchers. In addition to that a demographic form was given digitally including age, gender, year of study and 2 yes-no questions. The study was conducted with 27 volunteers between March and May 2022 at Eastern Mediterranean University and Marmara University. To interpret the gathered data, a qualitative method called thematic analysis was used.

Results

The sample of this study consists of 7 first-year, 6 second-year, 5 third-year, 3 fourth-year, 4 five-year and 2 sixth-year students. While 5 participants mentioned having history of mental problems, 4 of them mentioned having professional support. It is found as participants mostly felt lonely and isolated (59.3%) because of the loss of in-person interaction. Also, participants had online education problems (37%) during lockdown. Some of them tried to cope with their issues mentally (81.5%), physically (48.1%), academically (37%) while some of them did nothing (14.8%).

Conclusion

It is found as medical students in lockdown have struggled with online education, stress and anxiety due to lockdown. As COVID-19 is a new issue and there is not any specific study conducted among medical students about this certain topic, this situation increases the significance of the conducted study.

Keywords: COVID-19, Lockdown, Medical Students, Mental Health, Academic Performance

PP-01

ATTITUDE TOWARDS COVID-19 VACCINATION IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL STUDENTS

Adam A.*, Bilgin B.*, Demirer U.*, Duman Y.*, Karadağ G.*, Turgut G.*, Altinoğlu G.**
*Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First Year Students
*Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic is currently one of the most relevant and urgent global challenges, affecting both young and old generations significantly.The most effective approach of protecting the population from COVID-19, is the vaccine. There are currently four different types of COVID-19 vaccines, all four aiming to achieve viral immunity. The purpose of the current study is to determine the attitude of Eastern Mediterranean University's medical students towards COVID-19 vaccination.

Methods: An online cross-sectional study was used for data collection. Sample size was 113 medical students among the Faculty of Medicine.. The Questionnaire included 10 multiple-choice was used to gather basic personal information about participant and 18 question aimed to investigate people's opinions and attitude towards the vaccine using a 5-point likert scale. Following data collection, IBM SPSS was used in data analysis.

Results: The participants' average age was 20,11 ±1,67.The female response rate was greater, at 55.8%, than the male response rate, which was 44.2%. A substantial percentage of participants were vaccinated against COVID-19 (98,2%).However, the number of doses of COVID-19 vaccine taken by those who were vaccinated varied from 2 to 4 doses. Three vaccine doses led the findings with 60,2%, followed by two doses with 24,8%, and four doses with 13,3%.Additionally, half of the people who had not been vaccinated yet were not planning to get vaccinated and half of them were. Nonetheless, the majority of students had a firm position that we should be vaccinated against COVID-19 (70,8%), and a considerable amount of them had no firm position regarding COVID-19 vaccination (22,1%). In our poll question, 40.5% said they don't believe the COVID-19 vaccination will have any significant negative effects in the future.

Conclusion: The results demonstrated that COVID-19 vaccination has been accepted by the majority of EMU medical students. It is believed that the vaccine is beneficial and important, and the government and health-care organizations are trusted for the regulation of vaccines. However, a tiny percentage of the participants were vaccination hesitant owing to certain factors such as the lack of faith in government information and worries about vaccine safety and potential health hazards. Overall, promoting educational information regarding the nature of vaccinations and their true adverse effects is a key aspect in reducing vaccine apprehension.

Keywords: COVID-19 vaccination; attitudes towards vaccine; medical students

PP-02

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON MEDICAL STUDENTS IN ASPECTS OF MENTAL HEALTH, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, NUTRITION AND PERCEPTION OF BECOMING A DOCTOR

Aktürk İ.Ü.*, Palabıyık Ş.D.*, Yalın S.*, Najar K.*, Zaluchukwu C.*, Akçay N.İ.**
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First Year Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction

The rapid development of the coronavirus disease into a pandemic has formed obstacles for medical society. Lockdowns caused people to be inactive, lack of getting sunlight and not eating properly caused nutritional deficiencies. Health care workers were under stress due to pandemic conditions The aim of this study is to learn how COVID-19 changed perceptions of medical students on becoming a doctor furthermore; mental health, physical activity, nutrition/diet are additional topics that we investigated.

Methods

This cross-sectional study was conducted in Medical Faculty of Eastern Mediterranean University. A questionnaire prepared by the researchers of this study were distributed to preclinical phase students (N=180) through private online messages. Questionnaire form included 4 sections with 20 questions in total. There were 4 demographic questions, and 16 questions related to the self-expressed changes about perception on medical career, nutrition, physical activity, and mental state during COVID-19 pandemic. Collected data was analyzed in both descriptive and comparative manners.

Results

The questionnaire was distributed to 180 people and received 100 replies, yielding a response rate of 55.56 percent. According to our results, 41 % of EMU medical students were demotivated about their future career in medicine during the COVID-19 pandemic, with most of these participants (25 %) being first-year medical students. Also, students who were in an anxious state went from 43% to 53% during COVID-19. During COVID-19 period 2% of participants exercised more than before the COVID-19 period. Lastly,62% of the students changed their eating habits in a way that made them feel bad about themselves.

Conclusion

For our main objective we have found that the COVID-19 pandemic and perception and motivation towards becoming a doctor have a significant association leading to a negative perception according to the overall findings

Keywords: COVID-19, Medical Students, Perception, Physical Activity, Nutrition

PP-03

INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COVID-19 VACCINES ON THE INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY RATE IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Mayoof A.*, Abdulaziz Abubakar N.*, Osman H.*, Mohammad Sani A. Elshikh M.*, Abuzakuk M.*, Cumaoğulları Ö.**
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Third Year Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction:
Covid-19 is a sever acute pneumonia which first reported in Wuhan, China. After increases number of cases and mortality that led (WHO) to declare a pandemic on 12 March 2020. Our aim is to investigate on the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in selected countries by using the incidence and mortality rates in the countries.

Material and Methods:
Our research is epidemiological surveillance study type. This study is researching on the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines on reducing the number of cases, vaccination rate and reducing number of mortality due to the virus; we included 17 countries in this research which are Australia, China, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Cyprus, Norway, South Africa, South Cyprus, South Korea, Turkey, UK, United Arab Emirates and US. we collected our databases from Our World In Data and the database of the ministries of health of the selected countries. And for data analysis we use excel and SPSS.

Results:
The number of fully vaccinated people showed a significant correlation with mortality with a p value of 0.001 whereas the number of fully vaccinated people did not show a significant correlation with the incidence which has a p value of 0.119.

Conclusion:
In this study we have investigated COVID-19 vaccines effectiveness for selected countries and we identified which countries had the most effectiveness.

Keywords: covid-19, covid-19 vaccine, protective measures, pandemic.

PP-04

ATTITUDE of TURKISH UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS TOWARDS MEDICAL BRAIN DRAIN, in EMU, NORTH CYPRUS

Topuz M.*, Şener N.*, Ziyaettin T.*, Yücebaş D.*, Erdem S.*, Mokarramdoust S.*, Gizem Ş.**
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First-Year Students.
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction

It's essential that well-trained doctors' availability covers the requirements to deliver the best possible healthcare. However, brain draining has been a predominant problem among Turkish medical students. The study aims to understand the perceptions and attitudes of Turkish undergraduate medical students towards medical brain drain and identify the factors that influence their decisions that must be considered when suggesting a strategy to address medical brain drain.

Methods

A cross-sectional study was conducted from November to April 2022 among 70 out of 130 Turkish medical students (Year 1 to 3 years) of the Faculty of Medicine at EMU in Cyprus. An online questionnaire prepared by the researchers to collect data. The survey included nominal and scale items to determine migration intentions, factors influencing their decisions, and understanding of the Turkish healthcare system. Descriptive statistics were used for data summarization and presentation by using IBM SPSS v26. The degree of association was measured by the Chi-Square test, with a significance level set at 0.05.

Results

62% of EMU medical students participating in the study reported that they intend, 10% don't plan and 28 % are unsure to work abroad. While one of the pulling factors for intending to work abroad is better working conditions (%75), the main pushing factors for not choosing Turkey to work in, are the inadequate salary (%72) and harassment of healthcare employee (66,7%). Germany (23%), US (19%), UK (18%) were the most frequently preferred countries to work. Furthermore, no significant association was discovered in our tests ($p>0.05$)

Conclusion

The study's findings indicate that a significant proportion of EMU medical students intend to work abroad. The potential future brain drain poses an immediate and severe threat to the viability of the Turkish healthcare system. Policies to reduce the out-brain drain of medical students are urgently needed to be part of the general workforce policy for health professionals in Turkey.

Keywords: Medical students, brain drain, healthcare system

PP-05

A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY ON MEDICAL STUDENTS FIRST 3 YEARS: KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION OF PLANT-BASED DIET IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, NORTHERN CYPRUS

Haidar A*, Ceylanlı E*, Güçlü K*, Jawad L*, Harb A*, Aksoy Y*, Cumaoğulları Ö*
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First Year Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction

Nowadays, people are becoming more aware of what they eat and its content. In this study, we measured future doctors perceived plant-based-diet and their knowledge about this subject.

Materials and Methods

This cross-sectional study conducted on February to April 2022 in Eastern Mediterranean University medical faculty included phase I students (180). We prepared the measurement tool by using related publishes. The questionnaire included 5 sections and a total of 33 questions and its distributed by Google Forms, via e-mail and face to face. Data analyzed by using SPSS vs26.

Results

Majority BMI normal range 51 female, 39 male, 107 participants joined to our study, response rate 64.71. 48 participants cooking at home and 57 participants does not follow any diet. 84, 55 students know different between vegan and vegetarianism and the meaning of flexitarian and pescatarian terms respectively. 80% of students think that plant-based-diet decrease blood pressure, obesity and diabetes risk. Half of participants think that this diet does not equal to the nutritional value of a meat-based diet. Only 10%(10) of students willing to give up meat based diet. For the 30% of participants environmentally friendly source of food (33) and packaging (31) is important. Only 15%(17) of students think that it is possible to sustain a plant-based lifestyle in Cyprus.

Conclusion

In our study most of students knows basic terms about plant-based diet and thinks it might be decrease some disease risks but does not think it is enough diet plan to being healthy than meat-based diet type. They don't think to try exclude meat from their life. Also most of participant does not interested in to buy environmentally friendly product for their kitchen and most of them thinks it is not possible to sustain a plant-based lifestyle in Cyprus.

Keywords: medical students, plant based diet, perception.

PP-06

CORRELATION BETWEEN CAFFEINE CONSUMPTION, SLEEPING HOURS AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AMONG PHASE 1 STUDENTS DURING THEIR FIRST COMMITTEE

Tat E.*, Jalil J.*, Taghipour Sani A.*, Eker K. E.*, Aksu A.*, Komili K.**
*Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, 1st Year Student
**Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Instructor

Introduction: Consensus suggests that every adult needs 7-9 of hours of sleep per night to achieve maximal functionality. It is no secret that medical students regularly fall short of this amount. As a result, students fall back into the use of various performance enhancing drugs with the most prominent being coffee. The casual relationship between caffeine and sleep disturbances have been well-documented by various other studies. In this project, our aim was to see if there was a correlation between caffeine consumption and sleeping hours and in turn academic performance among our peers.

Methods: This study was initiated on 21/12/2021. We opted for use of a 30 online questionnaire as our method of inquiry and data collection was concluded on 26/04/22. We excluded 2nd year students for the veracity of our research on the grounds that their education was being held online which introduces a variety of factors that would come in conflict with the variables of caffeine consumption, sleeping hours, and academic performance that are the subjects of this study.

Results: As a result of low turnout (57.42% response rate) our results can't be generalized for the whole population. Among our participants there was a 50/50 split in genders and 68.9% of them were first-year and 30.2% were third year students. Our results showed that duration of sleeping hours was independent from amount of daily coffee consumption (chi-square, $p=0.357$ with Fisher's exact test) and that both first committee scores (chi-square, $p=0.208$ with Fisher's exact test) and student's GPA (chi-square, $p=0.681$ with Fisher's exact test) were independent from duration of sleeping hours.

Conclusion: Our research didn't observe any correlation between caffeine consumption and duration of sleeping hours and in turn the latter's correlation with academic performance within our study group.

Keywords: Sleeping Hours, Academic Performance, Caffeine Consumption

PP-07

WHAT IS THE STRESS LEVEL AND THE MOST COMMON STRESS-RELIEVING METHODS AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IN EMU

Aşicioğlu M.*, Bardakko N *, Çakirca S.*, Günaydin A. *, Memarbashi M.B.*, Tepretmez L.*, Norouzbahari M.**
*Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First Year Students
 ** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction
Stress is a physical or emotional threat that many serious medical disorders are related to a failure to control and relieve stress. Medical education is a demanding field, and medical students are often put under duress which can have an impact on their academic performance. So our study aims to find; stress level of medical students, the most common stress relief methods, if stress level changes based on gender.

Methods
This was a cross-sectional study with a self-administered questionnaire that conducted by 24 questions from November to April 2022 among 110 out of 180 pre-clinical medical students of the Faculty of Medicine at EMU. There were 3 categories in our questionnaire, demographic characteristics in section A, The Perceived Stress Scale (State of New Hampshire,2016) in section B. Also, we were able to determine the most common stress-relieving methods in section C. IBM SPSS v26.0 software was used to analyze data and apply the t-test.

Results
The response rate to the questionnaire was 61% with 110 students comprising 55.50% females and 44.50% males. According to Perceived Stress Scale, first academic year students have more stress(60%) than other grades(4%) (p=0.04); females(70%) faced with stress more than males(30%) (p=0.001) in pre-clinical medical years. In addition,, According to our research, the most popular stress-relieving methods are to listen to music(12%) and sleep (11%). It was perceived that the majority of the medical students felt stressed and nervous fairly often(36.40%). Even there was no relation between hyperviolence and stress, only the year 1 students who have the most stress(60%), choose to be hyperviolence(4.20%).

Conclusion
The results that we obtained are similar to those articles which we studied. Overall, the most popular stress-relieving method is listening to music and female students were more stressed than the male students. So, students may be more considerate about their stress-relieving methods in order to be less stressed.

Keywords: stress; medical students; mental health; stress-relieving methods

PP-08

OPINIONS OF EMU MEDICAL STUDENTS ON GENDER INEQUALITY

Binbuğa H.B.*, İyican M.*, Kuşi D.*, Bozkurt İ.*, Tehdit D.*, Alsaeed A.*, Altınoğlu G.**
* Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, First Year Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction

Growing in an equalitarian society is a fundamental human right of every individual. Gender inequality is an ongoing contemporary issue impacting all aspects of life. The current study is aimed at gaining different perspectives of medical students at EMU Faculty of Medicine.

Material & Methods

A cross-sectional questionnaire-based survey included Phase I medical students of EMU Faculty of Medicine with a random sample size of 123. Data were collected between October 2021 and May 2022.The questionnaire was carried out both virtually and physically and touched upon 6 different categories: Social life , Education , Sports media , Politics , Social Media , Workplace.

Results

Response rate from the sample of diverse nationalities was 65.04%. Ratio of male to female participants was 40% to 60% respectively. In general, females believed that gender inequality, inevitably , exists in the relevant categories. Males, on the other hand, contradicted and believed that gender inequality does not exist. The field of education , however, showed an outstanding outcome regarding disagreement in existence of gender inequality with 68.8 and 72.9 per cent in males and females, respectively. Therefore , demonstrating that the majority of medical students are receiving education in a gender-neutral environment.

Conclusion

This established article provided an insight into beliefs and previous experiences of medical students within different fields of life. Offering medical students to share opinions about such a contemporary issue awoke an eagerness to become socially active through their lifelong education.

Keywords: Human right , Gender inequality, Contemporary issue

PP-09

ASSESSING KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND MOTIVATIONS ABOUT BLOOD DONATION AMONG HEALTH-RELATED FACULTY STUDENTS

Sezer E.*, Obut B.*, Kansu K.*, Bayraktar N.*, Taş D.*, Nemutlu K.*, Bahçivan S.*, Akçay Nİ.**

* Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Medicine, TRNC, 2nd Year Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Medicine, TRNC

Background: Blood donors play a critical role in fulfilling the world's ever-increasing blood demand. The donation systems are based on benevolence and voluntarism. As being future health professionals, students enrolled in health-related departments are expected to have enough knowledge, awareness, and experience about blood donation.

Objectives: This study aimed to assess knowledge about, attitudes towards, and motivations regarding blood donation among health-related faculty students.
Material and Methods: A cross sectional study was carried out, where health-related faculty students enrolled in EMU were considered as the population. The minimum required sample size was calculated to be 327 and sample was reached by following a clustered sampling method. A pre-prepared and validated questionnaire was used to assess knowledge, attitudes and motivations. The questionnaire included 31 questions with four main sections: Demographics, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices about blood donation. Distribution of the questionnaire were done both online and face-to-face. IBM SPSS version 26 was used for data analysis.

Results: The sample included 61 participants with a response rate of 18.6%. The mean knowledge score was 4.96 ± 0.21 out of 9, whereas the mean attitude score was 12.56 ± 2.69 out of 20. There was a higher mean knowledge score in females compared to males without statistical significance. Furthermore, a higher attitude score among unreligious people is observed than religious people without statistically significance difference. Mostly stated causes for not donating blood were blood donation not crossing their mind (36.1%), fear of needle or seeing blood (14.8%), and donation procedure being painful (14.8%). As assessed, motivating factors for donating blood were mostly mobile blood donation caravans in public areas (80.3%), and chance of having one day off (80.3%).

Conclusion: Findings of this study indicate moderate-high levels of knowledge and attitude about blood donation among health-related faculty students. Educational activities designed to raise awareness in certain target populations and concentrating on some blood donation encouraging aspects are suggested.

Keywords: Blood Donation, Knowledge, Attitude, Practices, Health-related Students

PP-10

QUESTIONNAIRE BASED STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND INVESTIGATION OF RESISTANT *S. AUREUS* COLONIZATION ON MOBILE PHONES AMONG HEALTH AND NON HEALTH RELATED FACULTY STUDENTS, IN EMU

Arda Doğru [1], Hanife Özbek [1], Özgür Yatağan [1], Deniz Akçalı [1], Bilge Serra Çekin [1], Naeem Munir Fahmi Naser [1], Soundesse Maram Laouar [1], Gizem Şanlıtürk [2]
[1] Eastern Mediterranean University, Second year students, TRNC
[2] Eastern Mediterranean University, Third year student, TRNC

Introduction: Antibiotics are medicines that are used to prevent and treat infections caused by bacteria. Antibiotic resistance is one of the world's deadliest health crises according to WHO. The purpose of this research is to measure knowledge level about AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance) and resistant *S. aureus* colonization on phones and to compare these parameters between health related and non-health related university students of Eastern Mediterranean University.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in EMU in North Cyprus from April to June 2022. Totally, 178 students from health-related faculties and 169 students from non-health related faculties constitute this study's' population. Minimum number of participants were calculated as 347 by a statistical web calculator named openepi with 95% confidence interval. The participants' AMR knowledge level was investigated by distributing a questionnaire to health related and non-health related faculties. Antibiotic resistant *S. aureus* colonization was measured by taking swaps from the participants' phones. Afterwards, these samples were inoculated into Mannitol Salt agar to targeted bacteria. Resistance of *S. aureus* against 6 different antibiotics (cefoxitin, gentamicin, amoxicillin, clindamycin and kanamycin) was investigated by conducting disc diffusion method. Chi-squared and multivariable logistic regression were used to assess the relationship between the demographic characteristics and antibiotic use knowledge and behaviour as well as presence of resistant isolates of *S. aureus* and antimicrobial resistance knowledge level.

Results: In order to set up the experiments, a pilot study was conducted with 32 students. 19 of the participants was female and 13 of them was male, mean age of our participants was calculated as 18.78. The preliminary results revealed that, there was no significant correlation between colonization of *S. aureus* and knowledge level of Antimicrobial resistance. *S. aureus* was detected from 67.56 % of the collected swap samples by using selective media called Mannitol Salt agar.

Conclusion: This study investigates university students' knowledge level about antibiotic resistance and habits of antibiotic usage. It also measures the relationship between knowledge level about antimicrobial resistance and the presence *of S. aureus* on the student's cell phones.

Keywords: University students, S. aureus, antimicrobial resistance

PP-11

CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY ON RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS AMONG HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENTS AT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY, NORTHERN CYPRUS

Dehghani M.*, Haj Fattouh M.*, Al-Tahan A.*, Emirtaneoğlu G.*, Ecesoy E.*, Küpeli G.*, Atasoylu A.**
*Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Medicine, 3rd Year medical Students.
**Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Medicine, Internal Medicine, TRNC.

Introduction: Sexual activity increases in young adulthood which underscores the importance of studying factors that might influence Risky Sexual Behaviour (RSB). Knowledge of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) includes having information about preventive methods and applying them in real life. Mental health status may also contribute to RSB. This study aimed to understand the factors that contribute to RSB of health science students. It was hypothesized that health science students are sufficiently knowledgeable about STIs to avoid RSB.

Methods: Using a cross-sectional study design, health sciences students at Eastern Mediterranean University were invited to complete a 37 question survey . including demographic data, living status, relationship status, parents' education level, HPV vaccination history, STI knowledge, sexual behaviours, and the PHQ-9 depression screen. RSB was considered a dependent variable while independent included demographic characteristics, living status, STI knowledge level, depression score, parents' education level, alcohol consumption and sex after recreational drug use. IBM-SPSS was used for data analysis. A P value <0.05 was considered as statistically significant. Chi-square ,Kruskal-Wallis H and Ordinal regression tests were applied.

Results: Despite having high STI knowledge level, RSB was very common. There was no significant difference between RSB and the SE factors such as parents' education level, living situation and frequency of alcohol consumption. While no significance difference was found between RSB and depression level, the majority of students were depressed (86%). Although most of the students (76%) were aware of the fact that HPV vaccination can prevent cervical cancer, only 28 % were vaccinated.

Conclusion: The data suggested depression is high among students. Regardless of sufficient STI knowledge or the benefits of HPV immunization, majority of students are not vaccinated and have RSB. We conclude that knowledge alone is insufficient to prevent RSB.

Keywords: Risky Sexual Behaviour, depression, STD knowledge.

PP-12

ANTIPROLIFERATIVE AND METABOLIC ACTIVITY OF THYMOQUINONE ON HUMAN COLON CANCER CELLS (HCT-116).

Tinchlikova M., Sunal M., Sari H., Çiçek U. N., Doğan A. A., Demir G.,
Özkoç M*, Altundağ E. M.**
*Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Biochemistry

Introduction: Thymoquinone is the active component of Nigella sativa (black cumin) seed oil that is used as a flavor in regions where colorectal cancer is rare, including Egypt, Pakistan, and India. The anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and anticarcinogenic effects of TQ have been used in traditional medicine for centuries, which supports the possible chemo-preventive properties of TQ.
AIM: In the present study, we aimed to investigate the antiproliferative effect and metabolic activity of thymoquinone (TQ) on colon cancer cells.

Methods: Cell viability was determined using the MTT analysis. Cells were treated with different concentrations of TQ (40, 60, 80, 100, 150, and 200 µM) on HCT 116 colon cancer cells. The half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC50) values were calculated by using the CompuSyn software program. In addition, secreted glucose and lactate in the cell culture supernatant were measured using the glucose and lactate estimation kit according to the manufacturer's instructions. Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism 7. One-way ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis tests were executed.

Results: The IC50 concentration of TQ was calculated to be 67.69 µM. Colon cancer cells were treated with the IC50 concentration of TQ. This showed decreased amount of mean glucose consumption of 412.21 ± 19.65 with ***$p < 0.001$. In addition to this, decrease in lactate production was observed with *$p < 0.05$.

Conclusions: This study demonstrates that TQ decreases glucose consumption and lactate production through its antiproliferative effect on colon cancer cells. Antiproliferative properties and metabolic activity of TQ indicated that TQ could become a potent anti-cancer drug in the future.

Keywords: Colon cancer, Thymoquinone, Antiproliferative effect, Metabolic activity

PP-13

INCIDENCE AND PATTERNS OF SKELETAL TRAUMA IN MISSING PERSON CASES: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY FROM NORTH CYPRUS

Acar Z.*, Ersözlüoğlu E.*, Bayraktar M.R.*, Becer G.*, Ateş. E.*, Sirkecioğlu A.Z.*, Çeker D.**, Deniz İ.**, Öngün Ç.B.***
*Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Medicine, 2nd Year Students
** Dr. Burhan Nalbantoğlu State Hospital, Forensic Medicine Unit, Nicosia TRNC.
*** Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Medicine, Famagusta TRNC.

Introduction: Forensic Anthropology is crucial in forensic investigations. Its concepts must be applied from the crime scene to the laboratory to avoid traces being overlooked or lost during a criminal investigation involving human skeletal remains. The evaluation of trauma is an important forensic practice that has increasingly become focus of the forensic anthropologist throughout the last two decades, with the growing recognition among the medical and legal community of the causal connection between forensic investigations of skeletal trauma and criminal prosecutions, human rights advocacy, and humanistic actions.

Material and Method: Forensic reports of the human remains belonging to the missing person cases (N=227), which were analysed in the Northern Cyprus Forensic Medicine Unit between 2011-2021, were examined to generate statistical data. Skeletal trauma findings were categorized according to the frequency, origin, and manner of death considering the locations on the body regions and bones by using Excel 2013 to determine incidences.

Results: Our material exhibited 166 male (73,1%) and 61 female (26,8%), consisted of 161 adults (70.9%), and 63 subadults (27,7%), 3 with undetermined age (1,3%) considered as the risk group. The most frequently observed trauma was gunshot trauma (n=155; 68,2%) followed by perimortem fractures with unknown mechanism of trauma (n=146; 64.3%). The most injured bone was cranium with 64,3% of cases (n=146).

Conclusion: It was observed that in missing person cases, samples were mostly adult males. In the missing persons cases, the most traumatized bone was skull, while the most common manner of death was gunshot trauma. The delay in finding human remains, as well as their ongoing decomposition, results in a significant reduction in the number of bones found, emphasizing the need for trace collection which is crucial in skeletal trauma interpretations in forensic investigations.

Keywords: Forensic Anthropology; Missing Persons; Skeletal Trauma.

PP-14

MATERNAL AND NEONATAL HEALTH IN FAMAGUSTA STATE HOSPITAL: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Akalpler V.*, Al-Nuaimi F.*, Alhousni D.*, Feyzioglu G.N.*, Halicilar E.*, Koroglu U.*, Guzoglu N.**, Goksu S.***
*Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Year 3 Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine
***Famagusta State Hospital, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Introduction

Maternal and neonatal health are essential for society and country therefore, World Health Organization recommended that this topic should be considered as a human rights and wellbeing perspective. The risk factors of pregnancy are largely the viewpoints that endanger the existence of the mother and child such as; diabetes mellitus, hypertension, preeclampsia, child spacing, maternal age and lifestyle behaviors which can be associated with prematurity, low birth weight, short & large for gestational aged newborns and other neonatal abnormalities.

Material & Method

This study is a retrospective analysis of 130 birth reports at Famagusta State Hospital prepared by Medicine Specialist Dr. Şerife Göksu, between November 2021 – March 2022 period. Data from birth reports included demographic and anthropometric measures of newborns and mothers, gestational age, type of birth, complications of mothers and newborns. Gathered data were analyzed in SPSS v22. Association and difference between variables are inspected by using Chi-Squared Test and Mann-Whitney U Test, respectively.

Results

Sample size was 130 case files with total of 125 births, including 5 pairs of twins. Relating to the births, cesarean section amounts for 79.2% whilst forming lesser majority spontaneous births with 20%. Concerning the gestational age distribution, 69.2% of newborns were appropriate, 15.4% babies were small and only 11.5% were large for their gestational age. A significant difference is evident in maternal conditions with 117 of the mothers presenting with no maternal conditions, while only 8 experienced maternal illnesses.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it was deduced through Chi-Square Test, the most notable finding was there is an existing correlation between neonatal abnormalities and maternal diseases with a p-value of 0.037, proving the research hypothesis to be true, where mothers with no presenting illnesses, 81% have had babies with no neonatal abnormalities, in comparison with only 19 % who did.

Keywords: Newborn Abnormalities, Maternal Diseases, Famagusta

PP-15

THE APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ONCOLOGY, CLINICAL NEUROLOGY, NEUROSCIENCE, AND GENETICS, AND THE ASSOCIATED MEDICAL ETHICS: A NARRATIVE REVIEW

Abu Issa A*, Azroun M*, Brnieh O*, Abbas M*, Homus A*, Nofal S*, Al Shaer A*, Sakallı H.E.**

*Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine, Third Year Students
** Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction: Artificial Intelligence is a branch of computer science which aims to model intelligent behavior and analyze complex data with minimal human intervention. Interest in AI has increased in the last 20 years and a considerable amount of research has been published about a variety of its aspects. Research centers and universities are funding new research about AI in medicine as researchers have assured us that AI has the potential to play a significant role in the future of medical practice. The ability of AI to exploit meaningful relationships within a data set can be applied in the diagnosis, treatment, and prediction of outcomes in many clinical scenarios.

Methods: This study is a narrative review that was conducted through the database Web of Science to identify the application of artificial intelligence in oncology, clinical neurology, neuroscience, genetics, and the associated medical ethics.

Findings: In oncology, AI may provide accurate treatment suggestions, provide predictions for the course of cancer, and detect tumor genes through less invasive methods. Optogenetics involves the precise control of neurons with light through the optical system. In genomics, AI can be utilized in genome annotation, variant calling and variant classification, and phenotype-to-genotype correspondence. AI als introduces new ethical challenges in medicine. Some examples are machine accuracy, the doctor versus machine discussion, and privacy issues.

Conclusion: The increased reliance of healthcare systems on data and the advancements in machine learning pave the way for the adoption of AI in medical care in the future. The capabilities of AI in risk assessment, diagnosis and treatment show that it could offer great assistance to medical practitioners in the fields of oncology, neurology, neuroscience and genetics. However, ethical challenges stand in the way of its implementation.

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