

Assessing Public Awareness of Colorectal Cancer in the Saudi Population

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to assess and identify the level of knowledge and awareness of colon cancer, including risk factors, symptoms and the time needed to seek medical care among the Saudi population. A cross-sectional study was conducted to assess public awareness and knowledge about colon cancer. The study recruited both adult males and females and was a part of the Saudi community. Non-Saudis, residents of other countries, and participants below 18 years were excluded. A questionnaire composed of socio-demographic characteristics, questions about the knowledge toward the risk factors and symptoms of colon cancer as well as awareness toward colon cancer screening was distributed. Of the 580 respondents, 394 were females and 186 were males. The most common risk factors for colon cancer were diseases of the colon (55.7%) and family history (54.8%), while the most common symptom was blood in the stool (62.9%) and weight loss (50.2%). The overall mean knowledge score was 6.35 (SD 3.96), with the majority (61%) having poor knowledge, 31% having moderate, and only 7.1% having good knowledge. Some of the factors associated with increased knowledge were being younger, being single, being a student, having heard of colon cancer, family history of colon cancer, and undergoing early screening for colon cancer. General public knowledge about colon cancer was deficient. Better knowledge can be seen among students who were aware of colon cancer or with a family history of the disease.

Keywords: *Colon Cancer, Awareness, Knowledge, Saudi Population, Screening*

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