

Reactions of Relatives of Epileptic Patients to Witnessed Seizures

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ABSTRACT

Raising awareness of appropriate actions to aid a person experiencing a seizure is essential because misinformed responses are common among the general public. This study aimed to evaluate the knowledge, awareness, and perceptions of non-medically trained relatives of epilepsy patients regarding epilepsy in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. A cross-sectional analysis was conducted on a group of anonymous adults in Saudi Arabia, who participated in a survey distributed to relatives attending a single neurology clinic. In addition, an electronic questionnaire was administered via social media platforms. This study aimed to assess the level of awareness of witnessed seizures in prehospital settings from May 2020 to August 2020. A total of 212 individuals participated in the survey. Among them, 25.5% identified as spouses, and 31.6% fell within the age group of 19 to 29 years. The recommended correct response, involving placing the patient on their side with or without calling an ambulance, was selected by 53.3% of respondents. Notably, only 23.6% of those who chose this action did so without combining it with any other potentially harmful interventions. The most common incorrect action among participants was the attempt to insert a hard object into the patient's mouth, chosen by 37.7% of the participants. This was followed by an attempt to restrain the patients tightly to prevent them from seizing, selected by 13.2% of respondents. Furthermore, 32.1% of the participants believed that the typical duration of a seizure is less than two minutes. While patients' relatives demonstrate better awareness in certain areas than the general public, overall knowledge remains insufficient. The healthcare sector must intensify efforts to enhance epilepsy awareness among them.

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