

Exploring the Knowledge and Preparedness for Otolaryngology Emergencies among Senior Medical Students and Interns at Al-Baha University

Mohammed A. Alghamdi, MD*

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The present study attempts to provide useful insights for medical education training programs by looking at the medical students' knowledge and confidence pertaining to otolaryngology emergencies. It aims to promote developments by highlighting the precise areas where enhancements by medical educators may be advantageous.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey using a structured questionnaire that investigates medical students' awareness of and readiness for otolaryngology emergencies. The questionnaire was distributed electronically. The study population are medical students and interns who successfully completed otolaryngology courses. The survey consists of 29 true or false questions and 7 Likert scale items. Questions probe attendance of any otolaryngology emergency cases including epistaxis, peritonsillar abscess, acute otitis media, mastoiditis, acute otitis externa, and sudden sensorineural hearing loss. Likert scale items measure participants' perceived confidence in managing otolaryngology emergencies. True or false questions evaluate knowledge and decision-making abilities. Descriptive statistics, including means and standard deviations, and inferential statistics, such as chi-square tests were utilized in analysis of data.

Results: A total of 61 participated in the study. Forty of them were 6th year medical students. Thirty-eight were males. Knowledge regarding epistaxis ranged between 75.4- and 86.9%. Knowledge regarding otitis media ranged between 62.3- and 90.2%. Knowledge regarding peritonsillar abscess treatment was at 45.9%. Knowledge regarding sensorineural hearing loss ranged between 42.6%- and 52.5 %. The confidence level of knowledge varied based on sex and educational level of the participant.

Conclusion: The present work contributes valuable insights to medical education and training programs. ILOs in the areas of sensorineural hearing loss, acute otitis externa, and otitis media need be strengthened. The gender gap in acquisition of these ILOs should be approximated. Realtime medical students' clinical exposure to ENT emergencies need be increased.

Key words: ORL education, Al-Baha, ENT emergencies, SaudiMed, ENT ILOs

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* Otolaryngology Assistant Professor
Surgery Department, Faculty of Medicine
Al-Baha University, Saudi Arabia.
Email: maaburas@bu.edu.sa