

Effect of Sociodemographic Factors on Knowledge and Attitudes of Nursing Staff toward Rotavirus Diarrheal Disease and Its Vaccines

Selman Hussain Faris* Haqi Ismael Mansoor, Ph.D** ***Ghazwan Abdulhussein Al-Abedi

ABSTRACT

Background: Rotavirus is a highly contagious virus that primarily affects infants and young children, causing severe diarrhea and sometimes leading to life-threatening dehydration. The nursing staff plays a critical role in vaccine administration and patient education.

Method: A descriptive study was conducted to assess nursing staff's knowledge and attitudes regarding rotavirus diarrheal disease and its vaccines in primary health care centers and to identify the factors that affect their knowledge and attitude toward rotavirus diarrheal disease and its vaccines, such as age, sex, education, and experience. The study began in November 2022 and lasted until June 2023. A simple random sample of 200 nurses who worked in primary health care centers was selected through the use of the probability-randomized method.

Results: This study found that the majority of nursing staff had a moderate level of knowledge and positive attitudes about the rotavirus diarrheal disease and its vaccines. There is no statistically significant association between the nursing staff's knowledge and their demographic data and also between attitude, level of education, and years of experience of nursing staff, while there is a statistically significant association between attitude and their age group and sex at $p < 0.05$.

Conclusion: The study found that the nursing staff had an adequate level of knowledge and a positive attitude about rotavirus diarrheal disease and its vaccines, and the level of knowledge was not affected by demographic factors, while there was an effect of sex and age on nurses' attitudes toward rotavirus diarrheal disease and its vaccines.

Keywords: Rotavirus; Attitudes; Knowledge; and Immunization

Bahrain Med Bull 2024; 46 (3): 2234 - 2238

* Assistant Professor
Department of Community Health Nursing
College of Nursing/ University of Kerbala, Iraq.
E-mail: Selman.hussein@uokerbala.edu.iq

** Department of Community Health Nursing
College of Nursing/ University of Kerbala, Iraq.
E-mail: Haqi.i@uokerbala.edu.iq

*** Department of Community Health Nursing, College of Nursing
University of Kerbala, Iraq.
E-mail: Ghazwan.a@uokerbala.edu.iq