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A Study on Antidote Knowledge and Availability among Emergency and Medical Doctors in a Central Region Malaysia Public Hospital

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OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the knowledge regarding antidotes and its availability among emergency and medical doctors; and to survey the preferred method of acquiring knowledge on antidotes.

METHODS: This is a cross-sectional study conducted from April to September 2019, using a validated questionnaire designed by clinical toxicologists and pharmacists, to study the knowledge and availability of antidotes among the emergency and medical doctors in central region hospitals. Subjects in this study consist of medical and emergency departments doctors from Public Tertiary General Hospitals and District Hospitals. House officers with less than 3 months of experience and temporary-attached medical officers are excluded. 231 samples will be recruited in this study. By ratio method, the proportion of samples in each department recruited will be divided based on the number of beds and staffs in the hospitals. The questionnaire data will be extracted and keyed into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences Software (SPSS) version 23.0. The data will be presented by descriptive analysis.

RESULTS: Antidotes knowledge is divided into 3 categories; simple, average and difficult. 78.62% of the doctors able to answer the simple antidotes. However, results are poor on the average and difficult antidotes. For the antidotes availability, most of the doctors only aware of the simple antidotes. More than 90% of the doctors would like to receive information on toxicology cases and antidotes. They prefer to acquire knowledge through mobile app, national guideline and reliable online toxicology references. This is the preliminary results done in one of the hospitals. More samples will be carried out in the district hospitals.

CONCLUSION: Most doctors are able to answer the simple antidotes and its availability in their hospital. Data collection will be continued in other hospitals to find out any significant variability in the antidotes knowledge between the types of hospitals.