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Abstracts

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PP147

Quality of sweat test: Initial evaluation of a laboratory

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Introduction and Objectives: The quantitative pilocarpine iontophoresis sweat chloride test remains the gold standard investigation in diagnosing cystic fibrosis. Our aim was to evaluate the quality of sweat testing in a single center.

Methods: The quality indicators were selected from international guidelines for performance of sweat test. Data was collected retrospectively from the sweat test register to evaluate each quality indicator.

Results: The study included data of 118 patients with clinical features suggestive of cystic fibrosis, who underwent sweat analysis from 2012 to 2016. Out of 118 patients, 100 patients had sufficient samples. All hundred samples were analyzed for conductivity. 9% had high, 4% had borderline and 87% had normal sweat conductivity. There was strong correlation between conductivity and sweat chloride levels ($p < 0.01$). The number of sweat tests performed per year was suboptimal (<50 per annum) but progressively increased with progressively low rates of Quantity Not Sufficient samples (0% in 2016). Incidence of patients with skin reactions was favorable (0.8%). There were no sweat conductivity or chloride values exceeding physiological limits (0%). Seven (5.9%) patients had cystic fibrosis. High values of conductivity and chloride concentration had good correlation with genetic studies.

Conclusion: Majority of the selected quality indicators of the sweat test procedure were satisfactory. Periodical examination and standardization is important to maintain the reliability of the sweat test. The laboratory should raise the awareness among physicians about the availability and the reliability of the sweat test and target for at least 50 tests per year to ensure competency.

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Knowledge, attitudes and beliefs regarding voluntary blood donation among adults residing in MOH area Akkaraipattu

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Introduction and Objectives: Although Voluntary blood donation rates amongst the Sri Lankan population is high, significant regional variations in certain communities seem to exist. Objective was to evaluate knowledge attitude and beliefs regarding voluntary blood donation among adults residing in MOH area Akkaraipattu.

Methods: Data was collected from 464 adult volunteers from randomly selected households using an interviewer administered pre tested questionnaire.

Results: 67.2% were aged <30 years. 45.7% were males and 54.3% females. Significant proportion (44.2%) was educated above Ordinary Level. 50.6% claimed that they had never donated blood. Mean knowledge score was 48.4% and 87.5% had erroneous knowledge about women being unable to donate while menstruating with a significant difference among those who had never donated blood. ($Â^2$=6.92 P=0.008).

The mean attitude score was 60.1%, and among those with poor attitudes 56.8% had not donated blood. Only 48.8% agreed that blood donation was altruistic ($Â^2$=20.77 p=0.0001). Only 41.8% agreed that their donation will encourage others to donate ($Â^2$=9.47 p=0.05). Only 41.1% agreed that the blood they may need today would not have been available if someone hadn't donated before ($Â^2$= 18.59 P=0.001).

Overall beliefs were correct (mean 91.1%) and 17.7% believed of weight gain following donation whereas 23.1% believed that women should not donate. Furthermore, those who had poor knowledge also had poor attitudes ($Â^2$=15.88 P=0.003)

Conclusion: Prevalence of blood donation was less than satisfactory among the adults residing in MOH area Akkaraipattu due to limited knowledge, unfavourable attitude and significant misconceptions about blood donation, especially the belief that women should not donate.