Foot Infection among Adult Diabetic Patients: A Health Clinic-Based Study

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Background: Diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases in the world. One of the most serious complications in diabetic patients is infections, especially in the foot.

Objective: To describe the magnitude and contributing factors to foot infection.

Setting: Health Center, Kuwait.

Design: A Cross-Sectional Study.

Method: A structured questionnaire was developed and data was collected from 258 patients. After the study had been completed, data were coded and analyzed by a statistical computer package.

Result: One hundred forty-seven (57%) diabetic patients reported foot infection. Ninety-nine (67.3%) had bacterial infection, 73 (50%) had fungal infection and few patients had both. The most common bacterial organisms affecting the foot of diabetic patients were staphylococcus and pseudomonas.

Conclusion: Foot infections among adult diabetic patients is a common complication. Immediate preventive measures need to be initiated.

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Knowledge and Compliance Regarding Pneumococcal Vaccination among Sickle Cell Disease Patients Attending Health Centers

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Background: Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a genetic disorder, which has a high prevalence in Bahrain (around 18,000 persons are affected). Streptococcus pneumonia is a major cause of serious bacterial infection in SCD. One of the measures taken to prevent pneumococcal infection is by the administration of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

Objective: To assess the knowledge of SCD patients attending the health centers regarding pneumococcal vaccination and to evaluate the compliance of SCD patients attending health centers in Bahrain toward pneumococcal vaccination.

Design: A Cross-Sectional Study.

Setting: Primary Health Centers, Bahrain.

Method: A total of 230 SCD patients participated in our study. An interview-administered questionnaire included personal characteristics and knowledge and compliance of SCD patients regarding pneumococcal vaccination. All data were analyzed using SPSS program.

Result: Hundred ninety-nine (86.5%) patients were unaware of the pneumococcal vaccination, and only 143 (62.2%) participants received the vaccine. Furthermore, 174 (75.7%) patients do not recall being informed about or recommended to receive the vaccine by their physicians.

Conclusion: It was found that the most common type of infection among the participants was respiratory infections, which emphasizes the need for the pneumococcal vaccine. However, the findings revealed that the knowledge and compliance of SCD patients regarding the pneumococcal vaccination were suboptimal.

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