

Reactions of Non-Neurological Physicians to Witnessed Seizures

Adnan A Badahdah, MBBS, FRCPC*

ABSTRACT

Overview: Epilepsy awareness has always been a critical topic, as it affects over 50 million individuals worldwide according to the WHO. The role of physicians in the healthcare system is crucial, and it is especially important for non-neurological doctors to be aware of how to manage acutely seizing patients. Improving the awareness and education of medical professionals will have a positive impact on the management outcomes of patients experiencing acute seizures, thereby enhancing patient safety.

Methods: A cross-sectional analysis was conducted in Saudi Arabia, who participated in a survey distributed to non-neurological physicians. Additionally, an electronic questionnaire was administered via social media platforms. The study aimed to assess the level of awareness concerning witnessed seizures in prehospital settings during the period from May 2020 to August 2020

Results: Total of 111 physicians participated in the survey, 70% being male, and the majority aged between 30 and 39 years. The most commonly chosen response by participants was to place the patient on their side, representing around 73% of the participants. Regarding the correct response, which is to call an ambulance and place the patient on their side without choosing any other answers, 32.4% of participants selected this option. The most common incorrect action chosen in the survey was putting a hard object in the patient's mouth, selected by 21.6% of participants.

Conclusion: Raising awareness among medical professionals is crucial for comprehensive epilepsy care. Despite some areas of better knowledge in comparison to general public, the overall awareness still inadequate, affecting optimal patient safety. Continuous medical education and improved access to guidelines and resources are recommended to enhance physician awareness and management of epilepsy.

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* Assistant Professor
University of Jeddah
Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine
Saudi Arabia.
E-mail: Aaobadahdah@uj.edu.sa