

Colorectal Cancer Knowledge and Awareness among Medical Students in Saudi Arabia: A Cross-Sectional Study

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ABSTRACT

Background: There is limited knowledge of colorectal cancer (CRC) among different segments of the society. We aimed to assess knowledge and awareness of CRC among Saudi Arabian medical students.

Methods: An online survey study was conducted in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for the duration between May 2023 and April 2024. This study utilized a questionnaire tool that was developed based on extensive literature review in the area of knowledge and awareness of CRC.

Results: A total of 279 students were involved in this study. Overall, the study participants showed moderate level of knowledge of CRC with a mean score of 15.7 (SD: 5.3) out of 23 (equal to 68.3%). Participants aged 21-24 years were more knowledgeable and aware of CRC, with OR = 2.43 (95% CI: 1.39-4.27, $p = 0.002$). In a similar way, it was noticed that participants aged 25-27 were also more aware with OR = 5.72, 95% CI: 1.51-21.72, $p = 0.010$. Years of study were important predictors, with students in the second year having OR = 3.64, 95% CI: 1.54-8.61, $p = 0.003$; third-year students, OR = 5.74, 95% CI: 2.63-12.53, $p < 0.001$; fourth-year students, OR = 4.72, 95% CI: 1.82-12.20, $p = 0.001$; fifth-year students, OR = 15.33, 95% CI: 4.38-53.63, $p < 0.001$; and interns had the highest OR = 18.67, 95% CI: 3.68-94.64, $p < 0.001$.

Conclusion: Saudi Arabian medical students showed a moderate level of knowledge of CRC. Years of education were the most powerful predictors of CRC awareness and knowledge.

Keywords: Awareness; Cancer; Colorectal; Knowledge; Saudi Arabia; Students

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