Knowledge regarding transmission and prevention of lymphatic filariasis among adults

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Abstract

Health should mean a lot more than escape from death, or for that matter, Escape from disease. Insects do good as well as harm; they transmit diseases like malaria, filarial, yellow fever etc. By this they have influenced history affecting mankind time to time. Aim: To assess the level of knowledge regarding prevention of lymphatic filariasis among adults.

Material and methods: The study was conducted by using systematic random sampling technique. Statistical Analysis Used: The collected data was organized, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by using descriptive and inferential statistics based on the objectives of the study.

Results and Conclusion: the results show that 39% had inadequate knowledge, 48% had moderate knowledge and 13% had adequate knowledge regarding transmission of lymphatic filariasis. Regarding knowledge on prevention of lymphatic filariasis 21% had inadequate knowledge, 45% had moderate knowledge and 34% had adequate knowledge.

Keywords: knowledge, transmission, prevention, adults

1. Introduction

Health should mean a lot more than escape from death, or for that matter, Escape from disease. Insects do good as well as harm; they transmit diseases like malaria, filarial, yellow fever etc. By this they have influenced history affecting mankind time to time. Lymphatic Filariasis is through to have affected humans since approximately 4000 years ago. Artifacts from ancient Egypt (2000 BC) and the Nok civilization in West Africa (5000 BC) show possible elephantiasis symptoms. The first clear reference to the disease occurs in ancient Greek literature, where scholars differentiated the often similar symptoms of lymphatic filariasis from leprosy [1].

Filaria has been a major public health problem in India next only to malaria the disease was recorded in India as early as 6th century B.C.by the famous Indian physician, Susruta in this book Susruta Samhita. In 7th century A.D., Madhavakara described signs and symptoms of the disease in his treatise ‘Madhava Nidhana legs. The discovery of Microfilaria (MF) in the peripheral blood was made first by Lewis in 1872 in Calcutta. Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease. Infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes. Infection is usually acquired in childhood causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system [2].

Mosquito control is another supplemental strategy supported by World Health Organization (WHO). It is used to reduce transmission of lymphatic filariasis and other mosquito-borne infections. Measures such as insecticide-treated nets or indoor residual spraying may help protect people from infection [3].

2. Objectives

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding prevention of lymphatic filariasis among adults.
- To assess the level of knowledge regarding transmission of lymphatic filariasis among adults.
- To identify the association between knowledge of adults regarding transmission and presentation of lymphatic filariasis with their selected socio-demographic variables.
3. Detailed research plan
Research Design: experimental research design.
Research Setting: The study was conducted in urban slum areas at Nellore.

4. Results and discussion

Table 1: frequency and Percentage distribution of knowledge regarding transmission and prevention of lymphatic filariasis among adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.I no</th>
<th>Level of knowledge</th>
<th>Inadequate (&lt;50%)</th>
<th>Moderate (50-75%)</th>
<th>Adequate (&gt;75%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Transmission</td>
<td>f 39</td>
<td>% 39</td>
<td>f 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>prevention</td>
<td>f 21</td>
<td>% 21</td>
<td>f 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Both transmission and prevention</td>
<td>f 25</td>
<td>% 25</td>
<td>f 61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table no-1: the results show that 39% had inadequate knowledge, 48% had moderate knowledge and 13% had adequate knowledge regarding transmission of lymphatic filariasis. Regarding knowledge on prevention of lymphatic filariasis 21% had inadequate knowledge, 45% had moderate knowledge and 34% had adequate knowledge.

5. Conclusion
In this study, most (61%) of the adults had moderate knowledge, 25 (25%) had inadequate knowledge and only few i.e. 14(14%) had adequate knowledge regarding transmission and prevention of lymphatic filariasis. There was a significant association between some of the demographic variables like occupational status and the level of knowledge regarding transmission of lymphatic filariasis at p<0.01 level. These findings suggested extensive health education programs were needed to bring awareness among adults. So Nurses need to encourage life style modifications by organizing health education programs on transmission and prevention of lymphatic filariasis to bring down morbidity, disability and to bring fruitful community.

6. References