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Knowledge and Practice of Doctors on Prescribing Intravenous Human Polyclonal Immunoglobulins among Sudanese Doctors

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Abstract

Introduction: Intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIG) is produced from pooled plasma obtained from thousands of blood donors, hence the potential hazards of viral transmission, adverse reactions, and the growing difficulties with obtaining safe plasma, all of which impact patients' health and products cost. Not much is known about the knowledge and practice of doctors on prescription IVIG in Sudan which have important effects on the rational use of the products.

Objectives: to investigate knowledge, and practice of prescribing IVIG with regards to rational use, doses and side effects, among treating doctors in referral hospitals within Sudan. Another objective was to identify the limitations of prescribing IVIG among doctors.

Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional study using non-supervised questionnaires, designed based on multiple choice, and "self-rating" questions distributed to IVIG prescribers at 7 referral hospitals located in Khartoum, Sudan (April-December 2018).

Results: A satisfactory knowledge score (7-13) was seen in 64% among participants. Thirty five percent of physicians, mainly junior doctors reflected an unsatisfactory level of knowledge (0-6), while 1% scored high rates (14-20). A satisfactory practice score (7-13) was seen in 54% of participants in contrast to unsatisfactory (0-6) in 43%.

Products cost, shortages, and lack of educational programs were the main limitations to using IVIG among Sudanese doctors.

Conclusions: these results call for implementation of training programs for doctors who are prescribing IVIG. Continuous educational and training programs must be conducted for physicians to ensure rational use of the products.