

Abstract Type : Oral

Abstract Submission No. : OR-1193

Knowledge, habitual hygienic practices, and health beliefs on the prevention of urinary tract infection among female university students: a baseline assessment

Annalyn Navarro, Imoan Shallom Aguas, Ivy Cayabyab, John Edlor Jurado, Rima Pabalan, Joana Marie Sison, Renz Aaron Zamora, **Raphael Enrique Tiongco**
Department of Medical Technology, College of Allied Medical Professions, Angeles University Foundation, Philippines

Objectives: In this study, we assessed the levels of three variables namely, knowledge on urinary tract infection (UTI) prevention, habitual hygienic practices, and health beliefs among female students from a private university in the Philippines. We also assessed the effect of knowledge on UTI prevention towards habitual hygienic practices and health beliefs. The difference in the mean score for the three variables between female allied and non-allied health university students was also compared.

Methods: With ethical approval, 362 female university students (219 allied health and 143 non-allied health students) were recruited using a quota sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge, habitual hygienic practices, and health beliefs of each participant.

Results: Based on our results, the many of the respondents (66.6%) showed unsatisfactorily knowledge on UTI prevention, despite of the majority (93.9%) of having good hygienic practices. Also, knowledge on UTI prevention was found to be associated with habitual hygienic practices ($r = 0.193, p < 0.001$), perceived benefits ($r = 0.137, p < 0.001$), and perceived barriers ($r = -0.139, p < 0.001$); whereas, habitual hygienic practices was found to be correlated with perceived susceptibility ($r = -0.172, p < 0.001$) and perceived severity ($r = 0.189, p < 0.001$). A significant difference ($p < 0.001$) in the mean scores for knowledge, habitual hygienic practices, perceived susceptibility, and perceived severity among female allied and non-allied health university students was noted.

Conclusions: Overall, female university students were found to have an unsatisfactory knowledge on UTI prevention, despite of having good hygienic practices. Also, knowledge was found to be a significant factor that influences both the participant's habitual hygienic practices and health beliefs. An intervention that aims to improve the participants' knowledge on UTI prevention is strongly recommended to be implemented in the selected locale.