Use of Personal Protective Equipment among Health Care Workers in A Teaching Hospital in Urmia, Iran

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Personal protective equipment
Health care workers
Midwives and Nurses

ABSTRACT

Introduction
The transmission of hospital infections to healthcare workers (HCW’s) is an important health challenge. With regard to increasing prevalence of blood borne and body fluids infections, emerging diseases and the risk of transmission of infectious diseases in HCW’s, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Disease Management, recommended the use of Personal protective equipment, attention to standard precautions and necessary precautions due to the type of infectious disease.

Method
In this descriptive cross-sectional study a researcher-made questionnaire was developed to assessing the use of protective equipment, attention to standard precautions and the reasons for non-use of protective equipment. After checking validity and reliability of questionnaire, researchers completed about 319 cases in Pediatric ICU, labor, emergency and pediatric operating room were in one month. Data analyzed by SPSS VER 16 and descriptive statistical tests.

Result
The results showed that standard precautions (77%), droplet precautions (42%), aerial precautions (38%) and contact precautions (40%). The use of gloves in standard precautions was the highest rate (88%) and the use of N95 mask in air precautions was the lowest (38%). Midwifery staff had the highest and nurses the lowest use of protective equipment (76% and 40% respectively). Some of them (32%) stated high workload is the main reason for not use of protective equipment.

Conclusion
Considering the importance of using protective equipment in prevention of blood-borne diseases and body fluids infections and other contagious diseases also the results of study, authorities more attention is necessary.