

Impact of Educational Intervention on the Awareness and Knowledge about Breast Cancer Detection and Screening among Pharmacists and Pharmacy Students in Jordan

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Abstract

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in women in Jordan. A lot of effort has been done by the ministry of health and Jordan breast cancer program to increase breast cancer public awareness, unfortunately breast cancer screening rate remains low. Currently, the pharmacist role is completely absent in this area, while the involvement of pharmacists in the distribution of breast cancer health promotion may have a positive impact.

The main objective of this research is to compare the effect of a pharmacist delivered educational intervention (an educational workshop and an informative brochure) on the awareness and knowledge about breast cancer detection and screening among pharmacists and pharmacy students in Jordan.

This study adopted a one group pre-post interventional study design. Respondents' general awareness about breast cancer was evaluated using six questions. Participants' responses were either correct or incorrect, a final awareness score out of 6 was provided for each respondent. For the evaluation of participants' knowledge about breast cancer early detection and screening methods, nine questions were used, final knowledge score out of 9 was then provided for each respondent.

The results show awareness scores were increased significantly by 66.7% (p-value=0.007) within the pharmacists' cohort and by 43.8% (p-value <0.001) within the students' cohort. The knowledge score about breast cancer screening was increased by 73.9% (p-value <0.001) within pharmacists' cohort and by 52.9% (p-value=0.002) within students' cohort. About 60% of pharmacists and 11% of students believed that they became more confident in answering questions about breast cancer and its screening and in giving advice to patients. About 63% of pharmacists and 100% of students agree that an informative brochure would have a positive impact on their knowledge and awareness, and it would help in breast cancer health promotion for the public.

Before receiving the educational intervention, pharmacists and pharmacy student's level of awareness and knowledge about breast cancer screening and detection were very low, however a significant improvement were observed after receiving the educational intervention and reassessing the levels.

In spite of inadequate current level of awareness and knowledge among pharmacists and pharmacy students about breast cancer, the majority of participants believed that they have an important role in breast cancer education for the public. Further efforts should be implemented on a university and national level to provide continuous education, such the ones presented in this study, to enable pharmacists to better perform their job in this area.