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Assessment of Knowledge and Fear of Scabies in a Saudi Population

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Background and objectives: Scabies is a common contagious parasitic dermatological illness. In 2017, the WHO recognized scabies as a Neglected Tropical Disease. The aim of the present research was to assess the level of knowledge and fear of scabies among the Saudi population.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional online study conducted in the western region of Saudi Arabia from January-September 2019. We used a validated, 12-questions questionnaire to assess the scabies knowledge and the Fear of Scabies Scale-10 (FSS-10) to determine the level of fear toward scabies.

Results: 3778 respondents were included with majorities of them were female and between the age of 15-30 years. 93.3% of the respondents were considered to have good level of knowledge towards scabies and those were more likely to be females, live in an urban area, have heard about scabies in the past, younger in age, achieved higher educational level and work for the medical and general education sector (all $P < 0.001$).

The total possible scores range from 10 (less fear) to 40 (greater fear). The mean total FSS-10 score was 33 ± 4.46 with 58.3% of them were considered to have greater fear and those were more likely to be female, younger in age, educated with higher educational degree, work for the general education sector and medical and ,but less likely to be unemployed (all $P < 0.001$). Partial correlation adjusting for potential confounders showed significant positive correlation between FSS-10 score and the scabies knowledge score ($r = 0.152$, $P < 0.001$).

Conclusion: Despite the good level of scabies knowledge, the level of fear towards scabies is high. Further educational programs recommended decreasing the negative effect of scabies on the community and the individuals' quality of life.

Recent Publications

1. Author of Scientific paper published at Clinics in Surgery entitled (Variable Presentations of Mesenteric and Omental Cysts in Infancy and Childhood Long-Term Follow-Up). Clinics in Surgery 1 2017 | Volume 2 | Article 1725: 15 Nov, 2017.
2. Author of research entitled (Knowledge , attitude of vaccination among parent , KSA) International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research Volume 8, Issue 12, December-2017 1834
3. Author of Case report published at International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research ,online international open access peer review journal entitled Heterotaxy-Syndrome-With-Asplenia-And-Complex-Congenital-Cyanotic-Heart-Disease-In-A-38-Weeks-Neonate-A-Case-Report.pdf"Heterotaxy Syndrome with Asplenia and complex Congenital Cyanotic Heart Disease in a 38 weeks Neonate) International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research, Volume 8, Issue 7, July-2017.