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PERCEPTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAND WASHING IN INFECTION CONTROL HOSPITAL IN A GROUP OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN THE HEALTH AREA IN (ECUADOR) IN THE YEAR 2023

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OBJECTIVE

To train a group of medical students in the correct hand-washing technique.

METHODOLOGY

Cross-sectional observational study of the use of the WHO hand-washing booklet.

The health of the world's population is guaranteed from the community upwards through biosafety, which is a set of preventive measures that should be promoted in all spaces; from home to hospital, raising awareness of the biological, physical and environmental risk factors in our daily lives. With an emphasis on behavioral discipline in actions and attitudes that reduce the risk of healthcare personnel acquiring infections and spreading them in the family and social environment and vice versa in the hospital environment.(1)

The main preventive measure against communicable diseases is hand washing, in addition to the use of personal protective equipment, the use of disinfectants and antiseptics, well-used and appropriate forms of sterilization, and the hygiene of physical spaces, both in the community and even more so in the hospital, thus better avoiding the cross-contamination of germs resistant to high-level antibiotic therapy that today cause serious infections that are difficult to treat.(2)

RESULTS

From the population of 202 people interviewed, the following data was collected:

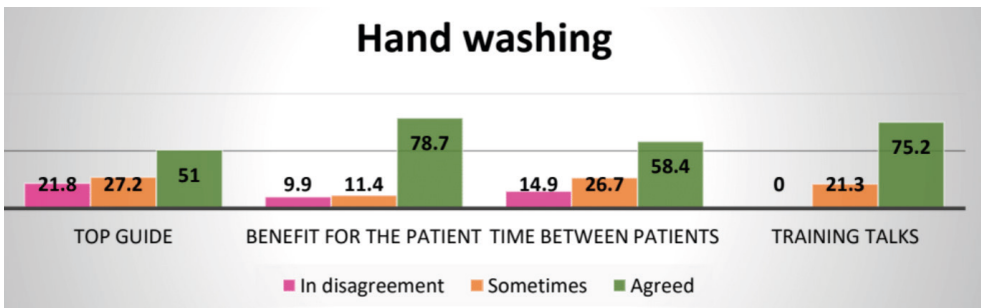
Taking into account the importance of having an example to follow, it is clear that 51% agree that they would perform hand hygiene more often if a superior did it when they started an activity, while 27.2% said they would only do it on some occasions.

As for the benefit to the patient, 78.7% indicated that they would perform hand hygiene more often if omitting this step would harm the patient, making up more than three quarters of the sample population that would perform it. 58.4% would perform hand hygiene more often if they had a break between caring for patients and 26.7% indicated that they only did it sometimes.

Last but not least, 75.25% of the total sample reported that the preventive service's training lectures on hand hygiene increased the frequency of hand washing.

CONCLUSION

The hand-washing procedure is still difficult for students to adhere to, so the example and reinforcement provided by continuous training are important for creating awareness of responsibility in reducing infections.



Source: Student response form.
Author: T. González, V. Ostaiza.

REFERENCES

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2..PAHO, editor. Autoevaluacion lavado de manos. 2020.