นิพนธ์ตันฉบับ

A knowledge survey of medical students about rational tube preparation

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Objective

: To survey knowledge of pre-clinical year medical students about rational

tube preparation

Setting

: Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University

Design

: Cross-sectional descriptive study

Subjects

: Fifty 3rd year medical students in the Faculty of Medicine of Chulalongkorn

University in academic year 1998

Method

: Interview

Results

Only ten (20%) of the 50 subjects knew the general rational tube preparation concepts, and these ten subjects could only describe basic knowledge about universal stopper color and proper selection of additives. Only three (6%) of the 50 subjects could describe proper quantities of specimens required for correct laboratory tests.

Conclusion:

Only a few medical students could describe complete rational tube preparation correctly. Therefore, promotion of this topic should be enhanced. Basic tube guidelines must be available.

Key words

: Medical student, Rational, Tube preparation.

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วัตถุประสงค์

: เพื่อสำรวจความรู้เกี่ยวกับการใช้หลอดเก็บสิ่งส่งตรวจอย่างเหมาะสมของ

นิสิตแพทย์

สถานที่ทำการศึกษา: คณะแพทยศาสตร์ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

รูปแบบการศึกษา : การศึกษาเชิงบรรยายชนิดตัดขวาง

กลุ่มที่ทำการศึกษา : นิสิตแพทย์ชั้นปีที่ 3 จำนวน 50 คน คณะแพทยศาสตร์ จุฬาลงกรณ์

มหาวิทยาลัย ปีการศึกษา 2541

วิธีดำเนินการศึกษา : การสัมภาษณ์

ผลการศึกษา

: มีเพียงร้อยละ 20 ของนิสิตทั้งหมด (10 คน) ที่ทราบเกี่ยวกับหลักการเลือก ใช้หลอดเก็บสิ่งส่งตรวจเบื้องต้น โดยนิสิตกลุ่มดังกล่าวสามารถให้คำอธิบาย ที่ถูกต้องเกี่ยวกับความสัมพันธ์ของสีจุกหลอดกับสารกันเลือดแข็งที่บรรจุอยู่ ภายในและหลักการเลือกใช้สารกันเลือดแข็งที่เหมาะสม แต่พบว่ามีเพียง ร้อยละ 6 ของนิสิตทั้งหมด (3 คน) เท่านั้นที่สามารถอธิบายการปริมาณของ

สิ่งส่งตรวจที่เหมาะสมสำหรับการตรวจทางห้องปฏิบัติการได้

สรุป

: มีนิสิตจำนวนน้อยมากที่สามรถอธิบายถึงหลักการใช้หลอดเก็บสิ่งส่งตรวจ ที่เหมาะสมได้อย่างสมบูรณ์ การส่งเสริมความรู้ทางด้านนี้จึงเป็นสิ่งที่จำเป็น ควรจัดให้มีคำคลิงาายแนวทางสำหรังเการส่งตรวจไว้คย่างเพียงพคกับความ

ต้องการ

คำสำคัญ

ะ นิสิตแพทย์ เหมาะสม. การเลือกใช้หลอดเก็บสิ่งส่งตรวจ

Venipuncture is a basic medical procedure that all graduate physicians must perform correctly. (1) Proper procedures are necessary for both preparation and practice. (2) To prepare for a venipuncture procedure, preparation for the practitioner, recipient and the instrument must be considered. Preparation requires one to have basic knowledge about tube use. Proper tube preparation means using the proper tube type classified by additive and proper numbers of blood specimens depending on the tests required. (3-7)

In King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, a university hospital in Thailand, all clinical-year medical students have to practice venipuncture with humanistic patient models. Due to the problem of ethics in medical practice, all procedures that medical students practice should reach a standard. Therefore, this pilot study was design to survey basic knowledge about preparations for venipuncture, especially relating to tube guides. The results of this study can assist in improving the training of medical students. Problems identified can be solved before they have to practice the real procedure.

Materials and Methods

This pilot study was designed as a cross-sectional descriptive study. The population in this study were 3rd year medical students of the Faculty of Medicine of Chulalongkorn University during academic year 1998 who were required to practice real patient venipuncture in the following semester. A simple random sampling was used to select 50 subjects (about thirty percent of the class population). All subjects were interviewed using a questionnaire guide (Table 1). Questions in the questionnaire guide were listed by the difficulty of knowledge.

Evaluation keys were shown in Table 1. Information from interviewing was collected, analyzed and appraised. Descriptive statistical analysis was used when appropriate. All statistical analysis was two-sided using an 0.05 level of significance.

Results

There were 25 female and 25 male medical students interviewed. There were only 10 students who said they knew the correct guidelines for tube use, their marks from evaluation were shown in Table 2. However, they could only answer questions about universal stopper color and additive selection. And only 3 subjects (2 male and 1 female) could answer questions about proper amounts of specimens required for laboratory tests. Ratio of medical students who knew process of rational tube preparation in each step was presented in Table 3. There was no statistically significant difference between the ratio of rational tube preparation knowledge at each step for the male and female medical students. But the ratio of subjects who could complete all step of tube preparation was significant lower than ones could describe some steps.

Discussion

It is surprising that from this study, there were only a few subjects who knew about rational tube preparation. Furthermore, the number of students who could correctly completely describe steps of preparation principles was even fewer. And the ratio for male and female knowledge of rational tube preparationstep of male subjects was not statistically different. Therefore, this knowledge seems to be not sex-dependent. Why medical student cannot complete

Table 1. Questionnaire guide used in this study.

1.	Do you know the correct guideline of tube using (Tube Guide)?	
	If answer is "No" stop	(0 point)
	If answer is "Yes" go to question 2	(1 point)
2.	Do you know what additives added in these tubes?	
	; Red tube, Lavender tube, Gray tube, Blue tube, Green tube	
	(Key; no additive, EDTA, fluoride, citrate, heparin)	
	If all answers are not correct stop	(0 point)
	If all answers are correct go to question 3	(1 point)
3.	Do you know what these types of specimens used for?	
	; clotted blood, EDTA blood, fluoride blood, citrate blood, heparin blood	
	(Key ; clotted blood for serology test , EDTA blood for hematology test	
	fluoride blood for sugar test , citrate blood for coagulation test	
	heparin blood for heavy metal test)	
	I answers are not correct stop	(0 point)
	If all answers are correct go to question 4	(1 point)
4.	Do you know the proper amount of specimen for these basic tests?	
	; serology test, complete blood count, blood sugar, PT & PTT, blood lead	
	(KEY; average 2 cc, 2 cc, 5 cc, 5 cc)	
	If answer are not correct	(0 point)
	If answer are correct	(1 point)

Table 2. Marks of students who said they knew correct tube guideline from evaluation.

Subject	Sex	Question number			
number		1	2	3	4
1.	Male	1	1	1	0
2.	Male	1	1	1	1
3.	Male	1	1	1	1
4.	Female	1	1	1	0
5.	Female	1	1	1	0
6.	Female	1	1	1	0
7.	Female	1	1	1	0
8.	Female	1	1	1	0
9.	Female	1	1	1	0
10.	Female	1	1	1	1

education in each topic? These study results reflect many interesting topics in medical education.

That the students may not be able to practice correctly although adequate instruction was provided is a major problem and should be of concern because this practice is a requirement of all newly graduated doctors. (8) Perhaps a lack of clinical experience is the cause. Perhaps insufficient instruction is provided in the pre-clinical year. Perhaps the present tube guidelines are too difficult to understand or are not available. Or perhaps the students do not appreciate the importance of this topic.

Table 3. Ratio of rational tube preparation knowledge in each step of male and female medical students.

Step	Male	Female	Total
knowledge about general concepts	3/25	7/25	10/50
universal stopper color	3/25	7/25	10/50
selection of proper additive	3/25	7/25	10/50
proper amount of specimen for laboratory tests*	2/25	1/25	3/50

^{*}There was significant lower ratio of subject who could describe this step than the other steps.

Poor practice is based on poor basic know-ledge. Poor clinical practice in tube preparation leads to poor basic laboratory skills. A previous study at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, (9) determined that improper specimens were being sent to the laboratory. These improper specimens resulted in waste of time and money, and in the worst case the patients can be affected.

Following to the principle that pre-clinical year medical students must practice real procedure in the future, therefore, any of their problems identified should be considered and promptly solved. (10) Irrational tube preparation implies more operational definition than poor knowledge. In the present day, concept of standardization and accreditation are widely promoted and discussed. (11 - 12) General physician should perform basic medical procedure properly and correctly. Furthermore, allowing not well-trained medical student practice in actual humanistic patient is considered non-ethical and illegal. (13-15)

This study was only a pilot study. Population in this study is the risk group due to the fact that their real medical practices will start in the next semester. Questions used in this study were all basic knowledge in general Laboratory Medicine textbook. (3 - 7) All

laboratory tests in the questions are frequently used in the real medical practice. The results of this study could be used in adaptation of the present training program. Proper tube preparation teaching is suggested and proper tube guideline should be available in every ward. Anyway further study should be done to fulfill the information.

Conclusion

Fifty 3rd year medical students were interviewed about basic knowledge about rational tube preparation process. There were very few subjects who could discuss. Suggestion about proper tube preparation knowledge teaching program and easy available tube guide were discussed.

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