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POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Guest Editor

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Age Determination by Evaluation of Costochondral Joint and Sternum on CT

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Introduction: Skeletal age can be used for diagnosis and treatment in the medicine. The most common method is wrist radiography. However, completed wrist bone ossification makes age determination difficult especially in cases over the age of 18 years. The aim of this study is to evaluate whether the fusion and calcification degrees between the sternum segments and costochondral joint calcifications have a value in the determination of age using thorax computed tomography (CT) in individuals over the age of 30 years.

Method: From January 2019 to January 2020, patients who underwent thorax CT in our center were included in this study. Age groups were determined as 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, 60-70, and 70-80 and radiological examination of 30 patients from each group was performed. The fusion degree of the manubriosternal and xifoidosternal joints were evaluated as no, partial or complete. Calcification degree of costacondral joints were numbered as 1-4. Additionally, central costochondral joint calcification was evaluated. Patients with calcium metabolism disorders, history of sternotomy and fractures were excluded from this study.

Results: The images were analyzed in the sagittal plane using Picture Archiving and Communication System. The mean age was 54.23 ± 14.03 years. There was a statistically significant relationship between manubriosternal joint fusion and age groups (r=0.221, p=0.007) and between xifoidosternal joint fusion and age groups (r=0.427, p<0.001). There was a statistically significant relationship between age groups and costochondral joint calcification degrees (r=0.485, p<0.001). There was a statistically significant relationship between age groups and central costochondral joint calcification (p<0.001).

Conclusion: Fusion analysis of the manubriosternal and xifoidosternal joints, calcification analysis of the costochondral joint and evaluation of central costochondral calcification are inexpensive, reliable and non-invasive methods that can be used for age determination in people over the age of 30 years.

Key words: Sternum, age estimation, thorax CT, fusion, calcification



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Survey for the Determination of Types of Screen Exposure and Duration in Children Between the Ages of 0 and 3 Years

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Introduction: In recent years, the inclusion of children in the computer and internet environment has increased with the increasing variety of electronic media devices. It is important to support the development of children in the process of adapting to the virtual world Screen exposure in children can cause many developmental problems as inversely with age. 2013 guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics; The limitation is that children under the age of two do not spend any time in the electronic environment, and children over the age of two spend less than two hours a day. In this study, we aimed to determine the presence, duration and factors affecting screen exposure in children under 3 years of age.

Method: The working group consists of 200 parents with children of 0-3 years who do not have any health problems applied to Bezmialem Vakif University Pediatric Outpatient Clinic. Parents were applied a structured questionnaire asking epidemiological features and screen exposure of their children. Data which was obtained in this study were analyzed with SPSS 21 program.

Results: Of the parents participating in our survey study, 93% are women, 7% are men. In 72.5% of the participating families, only the father was working, 25.9% both mother and father were working, 1.6% did not work parents. 72.4% of the mothers were housewives and 27.6% were working mothers. 55.4% of children were male and 44.6% were girl. Children with no screen exposure was 8.9%, 62.8% of them were with rare of screen exposure, screen exposure frequent was 21.5%, screen exposure very frequent was 6.8%. There was no significant relationship between mother's age, child's gender, family model, mother's employment status, income level and presence of screen exposure. There was a significant relationship between the definition of the child as having a difficult temperament and the presence of screen exposure (p=0.003).

Conclusion: Most of the mothers who were exposed to the screen described their children as having a difficult temperament. This study showed us that we need to tell mothers more about the risks of screen exposure. it seems necessary to support and educate parents on parenting skills and coping skills.

Key words: Childre, exposure, screen



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The Effect of Medical Developments on the Patient-Physician Relationship from past to Today

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Introduction: The duty of a physician should not be limited to provide the right treatment for the patient. The physician also has other duties such as comforting, informing and understanding the patient. Today, the importance of communication, which is one of the most important factors in the physician-patient relationship, has decreased.

Method: Patient satisfaction questionnaire was applied to a total of 173 people based on a scale developed to evaluate the non-technical side of service satisfaction in health institutions. They were scored between 0 and 4 according to the Likert scale; 0 being: I do not agree, 1: I partially agree, 2: I agree, 3: I strongly agree, 4: I completely agree.

Results: The questionnaire consisted of 43 questions about the patients' satisfaction on the outpatient clinic, hospitalization conditions, hospital staff, patients' rights, and cafeteria services. The reliability of scale was examined by Cronbach alpha, theta, and omega reliability coefficients (α =0.9682, θ =0.9709 and Ω =0.9841) and the results of this scale was found to be highly significant. The validity of the scale was examined in terms of constructing validity. The scale was accepted as valid (F=215.57, sd1=1, sd2=9395, p<0.0001).

Percentages of the fully satisfied patients (completely agree, 4 points):

Polyclinic satisfaction: 78%

Hospital service satisfaction: 73% Other bureaucratic procedures: 87%

Hospital Staff evaluation: 83%

Patient rights: 90% Cafeteria services: 74%

Hospital physical evaluation: 82%

Overall rating: 86%

Conclusion: As a result of the research, patients stated that they were generally satisfied with the hospital services. Having a short examination period started to be regarded as normal over time. Errors in the health system have been minimized with the extraordinary efforts of doctors.

Key words: Patient-physician relationship, patient satisfaction



Perceptions of Postmenopausal Symptoms and Treatment Options Among Middle-Aged Women

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Introduction: Menopause is the cessation of menstruation owing to the depletion of ovarian function. Vasomotor symptoms, hot flushes and some other symptoms are associated with the postmenopausal period. Hormone therapy (HT) is the most effective treatment option. After the Women's Health Initiative study, there has been some confusion about utilizing HT for alleviating menopause symptoms. Many women have opted for other non-hormonal treatments. However, the effects of these other treatments are not as promising as those of HT. The aim of this study is to investigate the perception of postmenopausal symptoms and treatment options among middle-aged Turkish women.

Method: The questionnaire was created by taking the "Perceptions of Postmenopausal Symptoms and Treatment Options among Middle-Aged Korean Women" study as an example. The study enrolled 210 Turkish women aged 45-60 years. The women were administered a structured questionnaire composing of 21 questions.

Results: With regard to the first questionnaire category, only 5.7% of the participants recognized menopause as a disease. For obtaining information about menopause, a majority of participants (57.14%) depended on mass media. Only 10.5% of the participants wanted to be administered HT for menopausal symptom treatment. A very low proportion of participants had positive views about HT (12.4%). The most common reasons for having negative views about HT were its adverse reactions (51.4%) and concerns about developing cancer (26.7%).

Conclusion: A very low proportion of participants recognized menopause as a disease and had positive views about HT, possibly because of incorrect information obtained from the mass media. Many women are not aware that there are definite contraindications and indications for appropriate HT usage. There is a need to improve public awareness about the benefits of HT and measures should be taken to remove incorrect information from the mass media.

Key words: Hormone therapy, menopause, postmenopausal symptoms



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Analyzing the Relationship Between Brain Magnetic Resonance Imaging Findings and Clinical Findings in Children with Cerebral Palsy

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Introduction: Cerebral palsy (CP) is a non-progressive neurodevelopmental disorder that occurs in the fetal brain, causing loss of motor function, movement and posture. The definitive biological markers may not be identified in the diagnosis of CP. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may relatively provide information about the nature and timing of brain lesions. The aim of this study was to evaluate the association between cranial MRI findings and clinical comorbidities of CP.

Method: This study was carried out retrospectively in Bezmialem Vakif University Medical Faculty Hospital Pediatric Neurology Outpatient Clinic. Two hundred-two patients who were newly diagnosed or followed up between January 2017 and August 2020 were included. The demographic information and MRI results of the patients were recorded in detail.

Results: Cranial MRI abnormalities were detected in 91.5% of the patients. According to the data obtained, the most common clinical finding was determined as epilepsy (77.2%) and it was observed that epilepsy frequently accompanied corpus callosum atrophy (p=0.036). We found that mental retardation, speech disorders and gait disorders were associated with focal infarction and a significant correlation was found between them (p=0.041, p=0.008, p=0.014). It was learned that clinical findings such as behavioral disorders, learning difficulties and attention deficit were associated with white matter damage (p=0.005). We found a significant correlation between nutritional disorders and cortical atrophy (p=0.006). Except for nutritional disorders, the association of stereotypic movements with cortical atrophy was remarkable (p=0.034).

Conclusion: It has been found that many of the clinical findings seen in CP are significantly related to the damaged area of the brain. The development of the associated symptoms may be stopped or prevented by early intervention.

Key words: Cerebral palsy, magnetic resonance imaging, clinical findings



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Self-efficacy Perceptions of Professional Competencies of 5th and 6th Grade Students in Bezmialem Vakif University Faculty of Medicine During the COVID-19 Outbreak Process

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Introduction: In clinics, the perception of self-efficacy is emphasized as an important indicator of students' academic success and career planning. In the 2020-2021 academic period, internship practices were suspended for a while because of the Coronavirus disease-19 pandemic. For this reason, it was considered worth investigating, especially the measurement of self-efficacy perceptions related to the professional competence of fifth and sixth grade students.

Method: "The Importance and Self-efficacy Perceptions of Physician Candidates regarding Occupational General Competencies Scale" was developed and used by Başusta and Elçin in 2014. In this study, it was prepared and applied through Google Forms. The information required to communicate with students was provided by the permission of the dean's office. Descriptive statistics of the data were indicated as average n and %. All statistical analyses were analyzed and reported at 95% confidence level at alpha =0.05 significance level in SPSS 21.0 program.

Results: Seventy-six fifth-graders and 92 sixth-graders completed the study, with a participation rate of 84%. When scale results were evaluated on a class basis, there was no statistically significant difference in professional importance and self-efficacy sub-scores (p>0.05). Compared to the maximum scores, the self-efficacy level was both intermediate in the fifth and sixth grades. On the basis of gender, there was a statistically significant difference in importance (p<0.05). Women gave more importance points than men. The self-efficacy scores given by women and men were close with no significant difference (p>0.05). The lowest means of importance (3.75) and self-efficacy (3.0) were in the practice of interventional applications.

Conclusion: This study demonstrated that, for 5th and 6th graders, the importance and self-efficacy levels were lowest in making interventional applications. There was no significant difference found among students in the name of self-efficacy. It was shown that women gave more importance to clinical practices than men.

Key words: Online education, medical students, COVID-19, self-efficacy



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Evaluation of the Relationship Between Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy and Vitamin B12 Level in Diabetic Patients

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Introduction: Diabetic peripheral neuropathy is the most common cause of adult polyneuropathy. The most common type is distal symmetrical polyneuropathy (DSPN). Paresthesia, numbness and neuropathic pain are presentation symptoms of DSPN, whereas motor weakness is a symptom in later stages. Vitamin B12 deficiency has been reported in some patients with DSPN, and there are conflicting results regarding the results of B12 replacement therapy. It is suggested in the literature that Metformin, a biguanide derivative used in the first-line treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus, causes vitamin B12 deficiency in various studies, and therefore, it has an effect on the clinical picture.

Method: We included 62 diabetic patients, who were admitted to Bezmialem Vakif University Endocrinology Clinic, in this study. All patients were assessed with the Michigan Neuropathy Screening Instrument (MNSI), that consists of a questionnaire and a physical examination part. The correlations between fasting blood glucose (FBG), HbA1c, Vitamin B12 levels and MNSI scores were evaluated.

Results: A significant negative correlation was found between FBG and serum B12. We found a significant negative relationship between HbA1c and serum B12. There was a positive significant relationship between HbA1c and the MNSI scores.

Conclusion: It can be concluded that the level of Vitamin B12 in patients using Metformin was low especially with high FBG and HbA1c levels. However, Vitamin B12 was not correlated with MNSI scores. Vitamin B12 screening should maintain its place in patients who come with high HbA1c and FBG with or without neuropathy symptoms. Because of the relationship between HbA1c and MNSI scores, we suggest that it is necessary to check the vitamin B12 level in patients presenting with neuropathic symptoms and with high HbA1c values.

Key words: Diabetic peripheral neuropathy, diabetes mellitus type 2, vitamin B12, metformin, HbA1c, fasting blood glucose, Michigan Neuropathy Screening Instrument



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The Impact of Peer Victimization and Psychological Symptoms on Quality of Life in Children and Adolescents with Familial Mediterranean Fever

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Introduction: Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) is a chronic disease, which is the most common monogenic autoinflammatory periodic fever syndrome. Poor quality of life and accompanying psychological symptoms are characteristics of chronic illnesses. Another problem faced by individuals with chronic diseases is peer bullying. The aim of our study is to investigate the effects of peer victimization and psychological symptoms on quality of life in children and adolescents with FMF.

Method: Children and adolescents between the ages of 8 and 18 years, who were followed up with a diagnosis of FMF in Bezmialem Vakif University Hospital Pediatric Outpatient Clinic, and healthy control group who applied to the Pediatric Outpatient Clinic were included in this study. These individuals were asked to complete a data collection form including sociodemographic characteristics. In addition, in both groups, depression, anxiety, quality of life and peer bullying were questioned according to determined scales.

Results: Results were calculated for 19 children and adolescents with FMF disease and 20 healthy controls. Quality of life was found to be significantly lower in children and adolescents with FMF disease compared to controls (p=0.035). Depression (p=0.04), anxiety (p=0.211) and peer bullying (p=0.396) scores were not found to be significant in children and adolescents with FMF disease compared to healthy controls.

Conclusion: Our results showed that children and adolescents with FMF may need follow-up and support from a psychiatric perspective. Their quality of life decreased and the frequency of depression increased compared to children and adolescents without FMF. Future studies with larger cohorts are needed to evaluate the psychological symptoms and peer bullying in children and adolescents with FMF.

Key words: Familial Mediterranean Fever, psychology, anxiety, depression, quality of life, peer victimization



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Investigation of Clinical and Epidemiological Characteristics of Kawasaki Patients

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Introduction: Kawasaki disease (KD) is a systemic vasculitis of unknown etiology. The absence of a specific laboratory test or clinical findings for KD causes difficulties in diagnosis. We retrospectively investigated the demographic characteristics, clinical and laboratory findings, treatment and follow-up results of patients who were followed up and treated with Kawasaki in Bezmialem Vakif Hospital.

Method: We took 36 patients who were diagnosed with KD between February 2009 and February 2020. We studied the patients in two groups as KD and incomplete KD. We checked whether there was a connection among the data by statistical analysis.

Results: Thirty-six patients were included in the study, 19 (58.8%) were male, 17 (47.2%) were female, 27.8% of the patients were above five years old, 25% were between the ages of five and two years, 47.2% were under the age of two years. The average age of the patients at the time of diagnosis was 38.64 months (1.5-131 months). The mean period from the beginning of the complaint to the diagnosis was 7.6±3.4 (3-14 days) days. The most common findings were skin rashes (80.6%), non-purulent conjunctivitis (77.8%), and oral mucosa and lip changes (75%). Fifteen (41.7%) patients were diagnosed as complete KD. Twenty-one (58.3%) patients were evaluated as incomplete KD. A second dose of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) was administered to 10 (27.1%) patients who were unresponsive to the first dose of IVIG.

Conclusion: In our study, male to female ratio was 1.12. Incomplete Kawasaki's frequency was increased compared to the reference studies in Turkey (in Turkey, it was between 13.6% and 42%, in our study it was 58.3%). The most common findings in the patients were skin rashes, non-purulent conjunctivitis, and changes in the oral mucosa and lips. LAP findings awere especially common in children over 5 years old. In our study, C-reactive protein, sedimentation and thrombocyte levels were usually high, and albumin and sodium levels were commonly low. Patients unresponsive to first dose IVIG treatment were higher than reference studies (10-15% in reference studies, 27.1% in our study).

Key words: Kawasaki disease, vasculitis, coronary artery, fever



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Knowledge and Confidence Level of the Mothers of Children Between the Ages of 0 and 36 Months Who Came to Bezmialem Vakif University Faculty of Medicine Hospital Child Health and Diseases Polyclinic: A Questionnaire Study

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Introduction: Vaccines are the most important and effective elements of preventive medicine and public health practices in improving public health. Although they are reliable products, their safety and necessity can be questioned by the society for various reasons. For many years, some circles have been skeptical of the vaccine concept. In addition to discussing its efficacy, they held vaccines responsible for some diseases of unknown etiology, arguing that they could cause serious disadvantages and as a result, they continued to systematically oppose the concept of vaccination and in time the concepts of "vaccine hesitancy-vaccine rejection" were introduced in the world.

Method: After obtaining informed consent from the mothers, a questionnaire was applied. For the confidence level against vaccines, the "Vaccine Reliability Scale", whose reliability and validity was confirmed for the Turkish form containing questions about the vaccine reliability, was used. When previous studies were taken as reference, using the NCSS PASS 2007 program, the sample size was determined to be at least 194 for the α =0.05 significance level and 80% power and 70% knowledge level.

Results: Results were analyzed and there were statistically significant relationships detected. Level of vaccine hesitancy decreased significantly as the adequacy of communication with doctors increased (p=0.001) and mothers 'confidence in doctors' knowledge and competence in vaccines increased (p=0.001). And mothers who think that they were adequately informed had less vaccine hesitancy than mothers who did not think that they were informed enough (p=0.005).

Conclusion: The results of the questionnaire study show that mothers' quality of communication with doctors, confidence in doctors' knowledge and competence, and lastly being informed by the government are important factors that directly affect the level of vaccine hesitancy of mothers.

Key words: Vaccine hesitancy, questionnaire, confidence, communication



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Placenta Previa Risk Factors and The Relevance Between Ultrasound Findings and Hysterectomy Incidence

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Introduction: Placenta previa is a condition in which the placenta is attached to the lower uterine segment and completely or partially covers the internal cervix. In this study, we attempted to see the relationship between antenatal ultrasound and hysterectomy.

Method: At least 80 cases of placenta previa, who applied Bezmialem Vakif University Hospital polyclinic between 2010 and 2020, were studied. The risk factors that were studied were as follows: Maternal age, parity, gravity, miscarriage, abortion, birth weight, the week of birth, apgar score, sex of the fetus. We estimated the effects of these risk factors by calculating mean numbers. As a result of hysterectomies, placentas were classified by invasion degree of the placenta layers as placenta percreata, increata, and accreata. Use of bleeding protective methods during surgery, antepartum bleeding, bladder invasion of the placenta and the sex of fetus were also studied.

Results: Ninety-two placenta previa patients were studied. 30% of the patients had antepartum bleeding. One of three patient was over the age of 35 years. Only in 8 patients, uterine invasion was detected by antenatal ultrasound examinations and 4 of them underwent hysterectomy. In 26 patients, uterine invasion was seen during surgery and 18 of them underwent hysterectomy, rest of them had bleeding preventer methods such as uterine and hypogastric artery ligation. Pathological classification showed that out of 18 patients who went under hysterectomy, 5 had acreata, 4 had percreata and 9 had increate, which constituted 50% of them. 80% patients with placenta percreata and bleeder invasion had gone into more than three cesarean sections, which strengthened the relationship between uterine wall damage and abnormal placental invasion. 62% of the patients had male fetus.

Conclusion: In our study, 8 out of 92 placenta previa cases were detected with antenatal ultrasound invasion findings, 4 of them underwent hysterectomy. The correlation between antenatal ultrasound invasion findings and hysterectomy incidence was about %50. Also, the rate of invasion detection during operation was found to be more frequent than antenatal ultrasound.

Key words: Placenta previa, ultrasound, hysterectomy



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Seasonal Prevalence of Influenza A (H1N1) and B Viruses Between 2016 and 2019

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Introduction: Influenza A and B viruses can lead to different degrees of clinical course, from mild to severe, and may be fatal. Especially pregnant women, children under 5 years old, elderly over 65 years old and patients with chronic diseases are at risk for H1N1 virus complications. In this study, it was aimed to show the prevalence of influenza A (H1N1) and B viruses by years and months using nasopharyngeal swab samples that we had in between 2016 and 2019.

Method: The data were obtained from nasopharyngeal swabs from all polyclinics between 2016 and 2019. Sofia Analyzer and a Sofia Influenza A + B FIA kit were used for differentiation. Descriptive statistics for months based on frequency (percent) was given in this study.

Results: 11,034 nasopharyngeal samples were sent to our laboratory in the period of 2016-2019. 2,393 (21.6%) of them were positive for influenza A virus and 662 (5.9%) of them were positive for influenza B. Thirty-eight (0.3%) of the samples were positive for Influenza A and B at the same time. Prevalence of influenza A virus: January 712 (29.7%), February 178 (7.4%), March 13 (0.5%), April 9 (0.3%), May 1 (0.04%), June 2 (0,08%), July 2 (0.08%), August 0, September 0, October 18 (0.7%), November 111 (4.6%), December 1,364 (56.9%). Prevalence of influenza B virus: January 157 (23.7%), February 236 (35.6%), March 46 (6.9%), April 37 (5.5%), May 89 (13.4%), June 3 (0,4%), July 0, August 0, September 0, October 2 (0.3%), November 9 (1.3%), December 94 (14.1%).

Conclusion: It was found that influenza A virus was seen much more in the winter season (December, January and February) and influenza B virus was more common in the early spring period, including January, February and March. Knowing the seasons in which the disease is seen more will be important for vaccination.

Key words: Influenza viruses, pandemic



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The Retrospective Analysis of Patients Diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma at BezmialemVakif University's School of Medicine Hospital

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Introduction: Lymphoma is an interesting disease in many ways. Lymphomas are tumoral formations that originate from lymphocytes. T-cell lymphomas are uncommon and aggressive malignancies associated with poor outcome. We aimed to identify patients diagnosed with T-cell lymphoma, to classify them according to their stages and response to treatment, and to obtain a retrospective study.

Method: Patients who presented to the Hematology Clinic between 2011 and July 2020 were included in the study. It was planned to reevaluate the patients in a retrospective study. Excel was used in the analysis of data. Patients diagnosed with Mycosis Fungoides, an indolent type of T-cell Lymphoma, and followed only by the hematology clinic were included in the study.

Results: A total of 40 patients, 16 women and 24 men, were included in the study. The average age was 52,225 years. Of these patients, 15 (5 women and 10 men) had MF, 3 (1 female and 2 male) had Anaplastic T-cell lymphoma and 22 (10 female and 12 male) had uncategorized T-cell lymphomas. Of the patients, 1 was diagnosed as Stage 1A, 6 as 2A, 4 as 2B, 10 as 3A, 5 as 3B, 7 as 4A, and 7 as 4B. During the study, 2 patients left the clinic, 17 patients died. The average age of patients that died was 59,529 years. Of the patients, 11 were observed in remission, 2 of them went into remission on brentuximab. Bone marrow biopsy was performed in 32 patients and 10 patients were referred to an external center. While 7 of the 40 patients continue their treatment in our clinic, 2 patients still continue at the external center.

Conclusion: T-cell lymphoma is a rare disease that is still unknown. Even if the patients respond to the treatment, the response is poor with relapses. By expanding this study, it can be used as a basis for future research which can potentially be helpful for developing new approaches to this disease.

Key words: T-cell lymphoma, retrospective study, socio-demographic characteristics



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Evaluation of Knowledge, Approaches and Behaviors on HPV Vaccination in Bezmialem Vakif University Students

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Introduction: Doctors' and healthcare providers' accurate knowledge and attitudes towards HPV vaccinations affect public in a positive way. Our aim in this study was to evaluate knowledge, approaches, and behaviors of grade four medical and dental students on HPV vaccination to enlighten the path for better outcomes.

Method: In our cross-sectional study, 4th grade students of the Faculties of Dentistry and Medicine in Bezmialem Vakif University who had just begun their clinical internship in 2019-2020 academic year were asked to participate in an online survey via Google Forms.

Results: A total of 75 people, including 59 (78.7%) from the Faculty of Medicine and 16 (21.3%) from the Faculty of Dentistry, participated in our study. Thirty-six participants (48.0%) smoked cigarettes at least once in their lives. Four people (5.3%) had a relative diagnosed with HPV and one person (1.3%) had a relative diagnosed with cervical cancer. Nineteen participants (25.3%) stated that they were sexually active. Seventy (94.6%) out of 74 noted that they learnt HPV infection in the university. Medical students agreed more on the following statements compared to dental students: "The family doctor has informed me on HPV vaccination", "The family doctor has informed me on HPV scan", "I believe HPV vaccination is safe", "I approve vaccination of children for HPV" and "I would have my children vaccinated for HPV" (respectively p=0.031, 0.015, <0.001, 0.013 and 0.009).

Conclusion: Compared to dental students, medical students correctly answered more questions which were in line with their attitudes. The findings are expected to enlighten further steps for a higher level of knowledge, more positive approaches, and attitudes towards HPV vaccination.

Key words: HPV, HPV vaccination, cervical cancer, public health



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Investigation of Sample Rejection Reasons from Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory

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Introduction: Clinical laboratories have a very important role in terms of patient safety due to their effects on the diagnosis and treatment of patients. The majority of laboratory errors, which are largely preventable, originate from the pre-analytical phase. It is important that each laboratory conducts studies on its own sample rejection rates and reasons for rejection and attempts to reduce these rates as much as possible. With this study, our aim is to investigate sample rejection rates and its causes and to determine the preventable causes in Bezmialem Vakif University Hospital Medical Biochemistry Laboratory.

Method: Rejected samples were divided into groups considering the requested test, the priority of the test, the department where the patient was located, the characteristics of the tube, the time the sample was taken, the time the sample was accepted, the time between the time the sample was taken and the admission to the laboratory, the personnel who took the sample, and the reason for the sample rejection. Data on rejected samples were expressed as rejection rate and percentage within groups.

Results: 61,033 of the samples that were accepted to the Bezmialem Vakif University central laboratory between 01/08/2019 and 01/08/2020 were rejected. Among the rejected examples, the most demanding department was Emergency Medicine (25.6%), the most wanted unit was Emergency Polyclinic (28.8%), the most wanted service was Internal Medicine Service (15.7%). With 57.2%, a higher rejection rate was found in the samples from inpatients than in those from outpatients. Hemolysis was the most common reason for rejection in 30 of 36 episodes with 100%.

Conclusion: In conclusion, most sample rejection samples are preventable. It is recommended that each laboratory investigates its own reasons for rejection, the personnel comply with the ideal blood collection conditions, and the staff gets training on the key principles to reduce rejection rates.

Key words: Rejection, sample, clinical laboratory



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Investigation of Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder in Patients Applied to Hospital with Any Accident, Injury or Trauma

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Introduction: Attention and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neuropsychiatric disorder and characterized by increased activity and less self-control about attention, concentration and impulses. For these reasons, people who have ADHD do not think before action so they make their move immediately and impulsively. Owing to that behavior, there are some outcomes like accident, injury, and trauma. In this research, our purpose was to investigate ADHD and routine anxiety-depression state in patients who applied to hospital with any accident, injury or trauma.

Method: We attempted to reach the patients with accident, injury or trauma who were admitted to Bezmialem Vakif Univercity. After the treatment, we applied two scales to these patients, which were Prof. Dr. Atilla Turgay's ADHD Scale and Hospital Anxiety Depression Scale. This group was our study's case group. Our control group was formed with healthy volunteers with similar sociodemographic features. We compared the results of these two groups.

Results: Our case group consisted of 71 people. Ten of them were found to have anxiety (14.1%) and 30 of them were detected to have depression (42.2%). Our control group consisted of 72 people. Sixteen of them were found to have anxiety (22.22%) and 40 of them were detected to have depression (55.55%). With regards to ADHD, 8 out of 71 patients (11.2%) in the case group and 4 out of 72 (5.5%) patients in the control group were proved to have ADHD (p=0.21).

Conclusion: According to these results, ADHD was found more frequently in the patients that applied to hospital with any accident, injury and trauma, although it was not statistically significant. Our results should be confirmed with further clinical studies and larger population.

Key words: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, accident, injury



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Investigation of Panic Attack Patients Who Applied with Chest Pain to Bezmialem Vakif University Emergency Department

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Introduction: Panic attacks are severe attacks of fear and anxiety that occur at certain times. Chest pain is a common symptom of panic attacks. Especially the presence of chest pain causes repetitive emergency department admissions. We aimed to prevent the inappropriate treatment given to these patients by investigating the panic attack patients for whom the diagnosis of Acute Coronary Syndrome was ruled out.

Method: This study was carried out retrospectively. We evaluated the patients who presented to the emergency department of Bezmialem Vakif University with chest pain and panic attack symptoms. Patients diagnosed with Panic Attack in the Emergency Service between May 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020 were included in the study.

Results: In this study, 32 patients with chest pain among 136 patients diagnosed with panic attack were included. According to our hospital's database, it was seen that the average number of attacks experienced by patients in a week was 1.25. Therefore, 37.5% of the patients applied more than once. Echocardiography or ultrasonography was requested for a total of 17 people (53.1%). In addition, tomography or magnetic resonance imaging was performed in 14 patients (43.8%). The analysis and imaging results requested from the patients were normal. Most of the patients who presented to the emergency department with chest pain complaints were discharged after excluding life-threatening conditions. In addition, they were referred to the psychiatry service.

Conclusion: A panic attack should be considered after it is confirmed by physical examination and various tests that the pain is not caused by cardiac reasons. The problem should be explained to the patient who has applied with chest pain to the emergency department and diagnosed with a panic attack. Then, the patient should be referred to the psychiatry department. In case of repeated admissions to the emergency department with atypical chest pain, we should definitely consider panic attacks. Thus, unnecessary medical analysis, polypharmacy and use of unnecessary drugs by patients are avoided.

Key words: Panic attack, chest pain, emergency service



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Investigation of Risk Factors Affecting the Development of Nephrotoxicity in Patients Receiving Colistin Therapy: A Retrospective Study

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Introduction: Colistin (COL) has become the backbone of the treatment of infections due to extensively drug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria. The most common restriction to its use is acute kidney injury (AKI). Studies have reported that approximately one third of patients using COL have developed nephrotoxicity. In this study, we aimed to detect which patient group developed nephrotoxicity while receiving COL regimes.

Method: We reached data by using our Bezmialem Vakif University' patients data system called 'Bizmed' retrospectively (July 2020 - June 2021). When we were arranging our patient groups, we took exclusion and inclusion criteria into consideration. We did not include patients that had chronic renal disease. In addition to above-mentioned exclusion criteria, we also determined inclusion criteria as follows: Patients should be over 18 years old and admitted to anesthesia and reanimation ICU. Also, they should take IV COL for at least 48 hours. Patients with no pre-existing kidney dysfunction were compared in terms of risk factors (age, hypertension, use of contrast media, and the use of other nephrotoxic drugs) and outcomes of AKI were graded according to the KDIGO criteria.

Results: Six out of 14 patients developed COL nephrotoxicity. The average age of the patient group was 56.5%. New onset of AKI was observed in 42.8% of the patients. In patients who developed nephrotoxicity, the rate of sepsis was 33.3%, while in those who did not develop it, it was 25%. We did not reach the targeted patient number on the ethical form. Statistical analysis could not be performed.

Conclusion: COL-induced nephrotoxicity occurred significantly more often in patients older than 60 years of age and it was related to low initial glomerular filtration rate estimations and high Charlson Comorbidity Index scores, which were basically determined by age.

Key words: Nephrotoxicity, intensive care unit, colistin



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Examination of Platelet Count and Mean Platelet Volume (MPV) Values in Children Diagnosed with Rheumatic Heart Disease

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Introduction: Acute rheumatic fever (ARF) is a non-suppurative inflammatory connective tissue disease seen after group A beta hemolytic streptococcal (GAS) infections of the upper respiratory tract. Long term cardiac damage that can occur as a result of a single severe attack or multiple recurrent ARF attacks is called rheumatic heart disease (RHD). In the evaluation of the mean platelet volume (MPV) together with the platelet count (PLT), we can obtain significant results in terms of showing the severity of inflammation in blood. The aim of our study is to obtain information about the inflammatory process by examining the platelet counts and MPV in children with rheumatic heart disease.

Method: In this prospective study, 132 children aged 5-18 years, who applied to the pediatric cardiology department of Bezmialem Vakif University between June 2020 and March 2021, were included. Echocardiography was performed on all participants by a pediatric cardiologist. In both groups, the complete blood sample was taken and we examined inflammatory markers (MPV and PLT) in the blood. We obtained all data from our hospital's patient data system.

Results: A total of 65 patients (39 female and 26 male) diagnosed with RHD and 67 healthy children (39 female and 28 male) participated in our study. We compared the patient group and control group in terms of age, gender, MPV, and PLT. The groups were similar in age and gender (p>0.05). MPV and PLT values of the patient group were lower than those of the control group but there was no significant difference between the two groups (p>0.05).

Conclusion: According to the results of our study, MPV and PLT values are not good parameters to show inflammation in children diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease.

Key words: Mean platelet volume, platelet count, rheumatic heart disease



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Self-Confidence in Clinical Breast Examination (CBE) Among Students of Bezmialem Vakif University Medical Faculty

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Introduction: Breast cancer remains a worldwide public health dilemma and is currently the most common tumor in the globe. It is a global issue now, but still it is diagnosed in the advanced stages due to the negligence of women regarding the self-inspection and clinical examination of the breast. Early diagnosis of breast cancer is one of the best approaches to prevent the devastating consequences of this disease. In some developed countries, the 5-year relative survival rate of breast cancer patients is above 80% due to early prevention. Clinical breast examination (CBE) is a key step in the diagnosis and surveillance of a number of benign and malignant breast diseases. When used as a part of a multimodal evaluation, the breast exam provides important information used in both the workup and management of many diseases of the breast. The aim of this study is to demonstrate the number of CBEs for improving students' confidence in their CBE skills.

Method: An online survey was conducted to Bezmialem Vakif University Faculty of Medicine 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. 68 female and 33 male students between the ages of 20 and 25 years were included in the study.

Results: Twenty-two, 68 and 11 medical faculty students from 4th, 5th and 6th grades, respectively, participated in the study. The number of CBEs performed by the students so far was divided into 8 groups as 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10,11-15,16-20 and 20+, performed by the number of students as 5,13,23,14,4,6,17, respectively. Among the students participating in the study, 45.6% (46/101) felt competent, but 38.6% (39/101) felt indecisive in CBE. 60.4% (60/101) thought they could distinguish abnormalities, but 26.7% (27/101) felt indecisive. 55.4% (56/101) of them thought that more than 20 clinical breast examinations should be performed.

Conclusion: This study shows that the more the students perform CBEs, the more they gain confidence in distinguishing lesions, especially after 20 times of thorough examination.

Key words: Clinical breast examination, medical students, self-confidence



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Evaluation of Diastolic Parameters of The Heart in Cerebrovascular Diseases

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Introduction: Cerebrovascular diseases (CVD) are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality. There are various risk factors including hypertension, diabetes mellitus, smoking, dyslipidemia, atrial fibrillation, carotid artery stenosis, and obesity. CVD have an important place in CVD. The term diastolic dysfunction is used for conditions in which diastolic relaxation, diastolic tension and left ventricular filling are impaired. In this study, we evaluate the diastolic parameters of the heart in patients with cerebrovascular disease.

Method: This study was performed retrospectively. It was planned to enroll 150 patients who were diagnosed with acute CVD and underwent echocardiographic examination. The study was conducted in patients diagnosed with CVD at Bezmialem Vakif University Hospital between November 2019 and December 2020. Patients who were diagnosed with cerebrovascular disease and had an echocardiographic examination at bedtime were included in the study from hospital records. The diastolic function evaluations of the patients were performed by measuring the tissue velocities (e'/a') and E/e' rates with transmitral filling (E/A) and tissue Doppler. In addition to the diastolic parameters of the patients, left ventricular ejection fractions were also evaluated.

Results: In this study, diastolic functions of 92 patients with CVD [59 men (64.1%), 33 women (35.9%)] were evaluated. Eighty patients (87%) were stage 1, 8 patients were stage 2 (8.7%), and 4 patients were evaluated as normal (4.3%). It was observed that diastolic parameters were more deteriorated compared to the normal population.

Conclusion: The analysis of the enrolled patients showed that the diastolic parameters of the patients with cerebrovascular disease were more deteriorated than normal population.

Key words: Cerebrovascular disease, cardiovascular disease, diastolic disfunction



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The Reasons for the Refusal of the Vaccines Nowadays

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Introduction: Immunization is an important healthcare service that helps the prevention of babies, children or adults from getting infected by several diseases. Despite the evidence supporting the safety, benefits and success of vaccines, concerns about vaccination practices and their effects have been raised in families these days. Therefore, there emerged a need to re-evaluate the factors affecting vaccination practices. The factors that influence parents are various reasons such as active ingredients in vaccines, lack of information, side effects and social media. Another reason is the lack of information revealed as a result of research on vaccination. This lack of information appears to be the most important reason for vaccination refusals.

Method: Participants of the study were 214 parents of children aged 0-10 years. The survey was spread to parents living in Istanbul and lasted between 23.11.2020 and 01.04.2021. In this study, parents of vaccinated and non-vaccinated children were divided in two groups. In this grouping, the gender of the children (female 57%) (male 43.4%), sibling status (65.2% yes) (34.8% no) and the economical situations were figured out.

Results: The rate of parents who considered appropriate to have their children vaccinated was 70.4% and the rate of those who did not find it appropriate to vaccinate their children was 29.6%. We determined the reasons of individuals who refused to have the vaccine. We listed the people who affected the mothers in making this decision; themselves (90%), spouses (32.5%), friends (10%), family elders (2.5%), and clergymen (2.5%). Among the reasons of the mothers who refused vaccination, the highest percentage was the side effects and harm of vaccination (92.5%).

Conclusion: In this study, the majority of parents accepted the vaccination and the improper information about immunization was the main reason for refusing vaccination.

Key words: Vaccination, immunization, parents



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Relationship of Sports Habit with Depression Levels in Medical Students

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Introduction: It has been suggested that sports improve mood with various physiological and biological mechanisms. Psychological effects of sports such as increasing self-confidence, getting away from negative thoughts, improvement in sleep and adaptation to stress are also mentioned. Our aim was to reduce the prevalence of depressive symptoms in students by instilling them in regular sports. We aimed to investigate the difference in the symptoms of depression between medical school students who exercised regularly and those who did not.

Method: The socio-demographic scale and Beck Depression Scale were applied to 110 medical students who did not do sports and 110 medical students who did regular sports 3 days in a week or at least 5 hours in a week.

Results: The mean of the depression score of those who exercised regularly 3 days in a week or at least 5 hours in a week was 9, and the mean depression score of medical students who did not exercise regularly was 17.

Conclusion: The mean depression score of medical students who did sports regularly was found to be 9. The average depression score of medical students who did not exercise regularly was found to be 17. A significant difference was found between depression scores. It was observed that students who did regular sports had minimal depression. It was observed that students who did not exercise regularly were on the medium depression scale. According to our findings, it has been found that regular exercise is effective in reducing depression.

Key words: Sport, depression, medical students



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Evaluation of the Relationship Between Fear of Childbirth and Socio-demographic Characteristics in Pregnant Women

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Introduction: Fear of childbirth is a common feeling among pregnant women. Due to excessive fear, delivery may be prolonged and fetal distress may occur. This study aims to evaluate the relationship between fear of childbirth (tocophobia) and socio-demographic characteristics in pregnant women.

Method: This study was planned prospectively. The sample of the study consisted of 112 pregnant women at 28-40 gestational weeks. A participant information form (22 questions) and Wijma Delivery Expectancy/ Experience Questionnaire (W-DEQ) A version were completed by the subjects. According to the scale, a higher score represents a higher degree of tocophobia. The minimum score that can be obtained from the scale is 0, the maximum score is 165. The data were evaluated using the IBM SPSS statistics 22.0 package program and the Mann-Whitney U test.

Results: One hundred twelve women at 33.27 ± 3.7 gestation weeks were included in the study. The mean maternal age was 29.19 ± 5.239 years. The mean W-DEQ A score of women was 57.9643 ± 27.17840 . No statistically significant difference was found in W-DEQ A scores in relation to age (p=0.536), gestation week (p=0.27), pandemic distress (p=0.139), delivery method preference (p=0.321), distressing experiences before pregnancy (p=0.507), educational level (p=0.291), chronic disease (p=0.632), having a problem in a previous pregnancy (p=0.543), having a problem in current pregnancy (p=0.325), spontaneous or assisted fertilization (p=0.215) or being in financial difficulty (p=0.091). A statistically significant difference was found in women with pregnancy experience (p=0.011), pre-pregnancy care (p=0.026) and planned pregnancy (p=0.022).

Conclusion: According to the results of our research, fear of childbirth was found at a high rate regardless of most of the investigated sociodemographic factors including age, educational level, and economic status. However, in primiparous expectant mothers, rates were significantly higher than in multiparous women. It is thought that pregnancy education and counseling will be beneficial for this group of women.

Key words: Fear of childbirth, pregnancy, tocophobia



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Evaluation of Radiation Awareness in Medical Faculty Students before and after Education

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Introduction: After being discovered by W. Conrad Roentgen in 1895, X-rays and electromagnetic radiation have become more a part of our lives every year. Today, imaging methods used in the medical diagnosis and treatment contain ionizing radiation which causes adverse biological effects on living organisms. In radiology practice, it is essential to take the least dose in accordance with the ALARA (As low as reasonably achievable) principle. In this study, we aimed to measure the level of knowledge of Bezmialem Vakif University Faculty of Medicine students about radiation dose and safety in radiological imaging methods and then to provide training.

Method: Our study was conducted with the form of a questionnaire and covered the academic year of 2020-2021 Bezmialem Vakif University Faculty of Medicine students (n=300). The questionnaire contained 15 questions which aimed to measure the knowledge level of the students. According to the sample size and power analysis, it was decided to apply the same questionnaire 15 days later after the training. The data distribution was examined by the Shapiro-Wilk test. The scores before and after the training were evaluated with the Wilcoxon or Paired t-test. Descriptive statistics were explained as mean \pm standard deviation or median (minimum-maximum). All statistical analyses were performed and reported in IBM SPSS Statistics 20.0 program at α =0.05 significance level.

Results: Of the 300 students who participated in the pre-education survey, 28% were 1st grade, 25% were 2nd grade, 12% were 3rd grade, and 35% were 4th grade students, and the same rates were preserved in the post-training survey. The 13 questions were answered correctly with an average rate of 33% in the pre-training questionnaire, while 74% were answered correctly after the training (p=0.043).

Conclusion: In conclusion, correct answers significantly increased after the training compared to the pretraining.

Key words: Radiation, questionnaire, awareness



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Awareness of Breast Milk and Breastfeeding Practices Among Female Healthcare Workers in Bezmialem Vakif University

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Introduction: Although breast milk is really important for the health of babies and mothers, there are still problems in starting and continuing breastfeeding. It is known that there are lots of factors effecting breastfeeding practices but there is no doubt that knowledge and attitude of healthcare professionals have a major role in this. For healthy generations, all healthcare professionals -especially female ones- should convey their knowledge and experience to mothers about this issue.

Method: In this study, we aim to evaluate the awareness about the importance of breast milk among female healthcare workers and learn about their own breastfeeding practices with a 40-question survey. One-hundred-seventeen female healthcare workers with or without children, who worked currently in Bezmialem Vakif University Hospital, participated in our study. The data obtained were evaluated with the SPSS analysis software.

Results: Sixty-eight (59%) physicians, 29 (25%) nurses and 19 (16%) healthcare workers from other professions participated in our study. The average age was 30 years and 34% of them stated that they had children. Those who gave only breast milk to their first born baby for the first 6 months constituted 50% of those who had children. And those who continued breastfeeding for at least 2 years were only 24% of the mothers. 10% of them stated that their babies did not receive breast milk at all. The average knowledge level rate was 65%. We found out that knowledge levels were correlated with age (p=0.015) and profession (p=0.007). Also, those who educated mothers in their professional life (p=0.0001) and who attended an education programme (p=0.0001) had a higher level of knowledge.

Conclusion: As a "baby friendly" foundation and a faculty university, we must handle this issue more carefully in the faculty education for students and in-service trainings for professionals.

Key words: Breastfeeding, healthcare workers, breast milk, knowledge level



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Evaluation of Anxiety and Fear Levels of Bezmialem Vakif University Students During COVID-19 Pandemic

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Introduction: After the Coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) was declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, many countries had to make radical decisions. Some of these are quarantine, isolation and social distance practices. Freedom is restricted, and families are separated. However, the pandemic process still remains uncertain. Healthcare workers are more affected than the rest of the society, as they work in dangerous conditions with heavy workload. This study aims to indicate the prone to anxiety and the fear of catching the disease among medical and dental students.

Method: A total of 140 students from the 4th and 5th grades of faculties of medicine and dentistry were included. Socio-demographic data, fear, and anxiety levels of the individuals were recorded using an online questionnaire. COVID-19 Fear Scale was used to measure fear levels, and Coronavirus Anxiety Scale (CAS) was used to determine anxiety levels.

Results: According to CAS, the mean anxiety total score of female students was significantly higher than that of male students (p=0.001). According to COVID-19 Fear Scale, the mean anxiety total score of female students was significantly higher than that of male students (p=0.001) and the mean anxiety total score of those who intended to use vitamins and supplements in case of COVID-19 disease had borderline statistical significance compared to students who did not use vitamins and supplements (p=0.051).

Conclusion: It was found that female students had higher anxiety and fear levels than male students. Those who intended to use vitamins and supplements in case of COVID-19 disease were found to be more prone to anxiety according to COVID-19 Fear Scale. There was no significant difference between the remaining propositions in terms of faculty, class or gender.

Key words: COVID 19, anxiety, fear, medical student, dental student, survey



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Can CXCL13 be a Prognostic Marker in Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma?

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Introduction: CXCL13, B-cell chemoattractant, has been associated with many diseases and cancers. One of the malignancies that CXCL13 has been investigated is clear cell renal cell carcinomas which are the most common subtype of renal cancers. The aim of this study is to evaluate the immunohistochemical staining patterns of CXCL13 in clear cell renal cell carcinomas and to determine its relationship with pathological tumor stage, risk factors and prognostic parameters.

Method: In this study, 99 patients who underwent partial/ radical nephrectomy and were diagnosed with clear cell renal cell carcinoma were included. Four micron sections were taken from paraffin embedded blocks containing sufficient tumor and kidney tissue. Samples were immunohistochemically stained with CXCL13 antibody. During microscopic examination, CXCL13 positive stained cells in 10 high magnification fields were counted and evaluated using a semi-quantitative H score: 3x strongly stained +2x moderately stained + weakly stained. The cut-off value was set as 40 for values between 0 and 300. The low and high stained groups were compared in terms of prognostic parameters and risk factors.

Results: In T3 stage tumors, 54.8% of intratumoral lymphocytes were highly stained with CXCL13, while the proportion of low stained was 29.8%. The amount of intratumoral lymphocytes stained with CXCL13 increased in advanced pathological stages (p=0.05). Non-smoking cases were mostly in the low staining group (p=0.06). Low stained lymphocytes in the kidney with CXCL13 were higher in all T-stages. T3 stage tumors were less than T1 stage tumors with low staining (p=0.04).

Conclusion: Although there is no statistically significant difference between staining and other prognostic parameters, the relationship we found between advanced pathological stage and intratumoral CXCL13 staining suggests that CXCL13 has a prognostic value in this cancer.

Key words: CXCL13, immunohistochemistry, clear cell renal cell carcinoma



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Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors of 4th Year Students of Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Pharmacy in Bezmialem Vakif University about Rational Medicine and Its Use

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Introduction: The use of wrong, unnecessary, ineffective and costly drugs all over the world causes problems of various dimensions. These effects include increased morbidity and mortality rates. For these reasons, various solutions have been tried to be produced and developed in the world. In this context, "Rational Drug Use" studies have been initiated in the world. Physicians, pharmacists, other groups can be considered as responsible parties in raising awareness on rational drug use and raising public awareness. In this study, it was aimed to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of the students of the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy about rational drug use in order to raise the awareness about rational drug use in future physicians and pharmacists.

Method: In the evaluation of knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding rational drug use, Bezmialem Vakif University 4th year Medicine and 4th year Pharmacy students in the 2019/2020 academic year were selected as the study universe. In the population of the study, Bezmialem Vakif University Faculties of Medicine (88) and Pharmacy (39) students were included, and there was no exclusion criterion in the selection of the universe. A 15-question questionnaire was applied to evaluate knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding rational drug use. The questionnaire to be applied was prepared on the internet using google forms.

Results: In the 15-question survey study, a significant difference was found between the 11th (p=0.023) and 15th (<0.001) questions. While pharmacy students used the medication until their complaints were over, medical students preferred to use the medication until the end of the medication. While pharmacy students learned about drug side effects from the pharmacist, medical students preferred to learn from the physician. There was not a meaningful result in other questions.

Conclusion: Students trust people in the field in which they are studying.

Key words: Rational drug use



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Comparison of Drug Efficiency and Safety in Childhood Febrile Convulsions Depending on the Rate of Seizure Recurrency

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Introduction: Sodium valproate (VPA), phenobarbitone and levetiracetam are the most common drugs prescribed for febrile seizures. This study aims to analyze the drug efficacy and seizure recurrence rate of phenobarbitone, VPA and levetiracetam.

Method: This was a retrospective study on preselected patients with febrile seizures aged 6 months to 5 years from the Bezmialem Vakif University Faculty of Medicine Hospital and diagnosed by the Department of Pediatric Neurology between the years of 2018 and 2019. The children had no other neurologic, psychiatric or somatic disorders. The participants were divided into three groups based on the treatment and the number of subjects was determined as 30 patients for each group based on 95% of QN level and 80% of power concedingly with double times more recurrence rate for one group to another. Associations and differences between the groups were evaluated using the $\chi 2$ test or Fisher test. The study data were evaluated using SPSS 20.0, IBM software. A value of p=0.05 was accepted as statistically significant.

Results: This research was experimented on 93 patients who were concedingly suited on the exclusion and inclusion criteria. There were 31 patients who exposed to VPA with 36.07% of seizure recurrence, 30 patients who exposed to levetiracetam with 33.5% of seizure recurrence, 32 patients who exposed to phenobarbitone with 34% of seizure recurrence.

Conclusion: Statistically, no significant relationship was observed between the groups since the p-value was more than 0.05 with respect to the statistic analysis which was performed accordingly to SPSS 20.0. No supremacy nor inferiority was observed between VPA, levetiracetam and phenobarbitone by the means of efficacy and seizure recurrency.

Key words: Febrile seizure, VPA, levetiracetam, phenobarbitone



Evaluation of Allergy in Ankylosing Spondylitis

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Introduction: While atopic disorders are associated with a predominant Th2 cytokine pattern, the cytokine pattern of ankylosing spondylitis (AS) can be described as an "impaired Th1 cytokine pattern". It is known that the generation of a Th2 immune response is inhibited in the presence of Th1 cytokines. However, previous researches have showed that patients with AS are more inclined to developing atopy. This study aims to find if there is an association between allergy and disease activity in patients with AS.

Method: Patients with ankylosing spondylitis, who were (HLAB27 positive) admitted to Bezmialem Vakif University Medical Faculty Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Polyclinic, were included in our study. Patients were divided into two groups, based on their disease activity score which was determined by Bath AS Disease Activity Index (BASDAI). Serum immunoglobulin E (IgE) values and eosinophil count of these two groups were compared.

Results: A total of 25 patients, including 11 male (44%) and 14 female (56%), were included in this study, and the average age was 42 years. 10 patients (40%) were scored as BASDAI \geq 4 (Group 1) and 15 (60%) as BASDAI \leq 4 (Group 2). The mean value of serum Ig level was 25.8 (IU/ML) in Group 1 and 22.6 (IU/ML) in Group 2 (p=0.138). The mean value of eosinophil count was 0.175 (10*3/UL) in Group 1 and 0.115 (10*3/UL) in Group 2 (p=0.127). There was no significant difference between these two groups in terms of IgE and eosinophil count.

Conclusion: Eosinophil count and serum immunoglobulin E values of AS patients with high disease activity were not significantly different from those of AS patients with low disease activity. This result suggests that allergy is not a risk factor for disease activity of ankylosing spondylitis.

Key words: Ankylosing spondylitis, allergy, eosinophil, immunoglobuline



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Research of Prevalence of Iron Deficiency and Anemia in Children Under 2 Years of Age

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Introduction: Iron is an essential element of vital functions such as erythrocyte production and protein synthesis. Iron deficiency causes systemic symptoms as well as anemia. From the 6th month of life, iron deficiency develops due to rapid growth and insufficient intake. Before anemia develops in the early period, there may be symptoms such as anorexia, weakness, growth retardation, restlessness and sleep disturbance. Iron deficiency anemia (IDA) is a decrease in hemoglobin concentration as a result of iron deficiency. Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anemia in all age groups. The aim of this study is to investigate the prevalence of iron deficiency observed in infancy under 2 years of age in healthy children based on retrospective records.

Method: In our retrospective study, children between the ages of 6 months and 2 years, who were admitted to the Bezmialem Vakif University Medical Faculty Hospital Pediatric Outpatient Clinic between January 2018 and January 2019 and who did not have any chronic diseases, were included.

Results: In our study, the records of 3,438 patients were examined. Anemia was detected in 719 of 3,438 patients. One hundred ninety four of these patients were diagnosed with IDA. One hundred and three of them were male and 91 of them were female. Eighty-eight of the patients diagnosed with IDA were children under 1 year old; 106 patients were children between the ages of 1 and 2 years. The incidence of IDA was measured as 5.5%.

Conclusion: Most of the iron deficiency seen in children is due to malnutrition, and it is of great importance for babies to start supplementary food intake with breast milk after the 6th month and to make iron supplements from outside if necessary. In our study, IDA was found in 5.5% of the children. Families of patients should be informed about this issue and awareness should be created. If there is no other disease, children should continue the treatment of IDA by getting adequate nutrition and iron supplements.

Key words: Iron deficiency, anemia, children



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Investigation of Thiol Disulfide Balance in People with Polycystic Kidney and Chronic Kidney Disease

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Introduction: Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease is an inherited multisystem disease characterized by progressive cystic enlargement of the kidneys. Proteinuria is the most sensitive marker of chronic kidney disease progression in clinical practice, especially when combined with eglomerular filtration, but they have limitations. Therefore, early and more sensitive biomarkers are required. Oxidative stress refers to the in vivo oxidation of lipids, proteins, carbohydrates and DNA and involves many biochemical pathways. Thiol/disulfide homeostasis is a marker of oxidative stress. We think that total and native thiol, which will be examined in the serum of patients with polycystic kidney disease and chronic kidney disease, will be an important marker in elucidating the pathogenesis and determining the prognosis, and the results obtained by comparing it with routinely used parameters will make a great contribution to the clinicians.

Method: With the power analysis performed, it was calculated that 3 groups (50 patients with the diagnosis of Polycystic Kidney Disease, 50 patients with Chronic Kidney Disease and 50 healthy volunteers) were included in the study. Total and native thiol levels in the serum samples taken were measured in the Bezmialem Vakif University Faculty of Medicine Medical Biochemistry Routine Laboratory with the new method developed by Erel et al. in the autoanalyzer device.

Results: As a result, the levels of thiol and native thiol, known as antioxidants, differed significantly between the patients with chronic kidney disease and polycystic kidney and the healthy control group (p<0.05). With this study, we showed that chronic kidney disease is associated with thiol levels (p<0.0045). GFR rate was found to be lower in patients with chronic kidney disease than in healthy volunteers (p<0.05).

Conclusion: In this study, the results were found to be significant by comparing thiol levels in patients diagnosed with chronic kidney disease and polycystic kidney disease and healthy volunteers.

Key words: Kidney disease, total thiol, native thiol



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Sleep Quality: Role in the Risk and Severity of Coronary Artery Obstruction Due to Atherosclerosis

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Introduction: Sleep is an important modulator of cardiovascular function, both in physiological conditions and in disease states. In individuals without a primary sleep disorder, sleep may exert significant effects on the autonomic nervous system, systemic hemodynamics, cardiac function, endothelial function, and coagulation. Insomnia is the most prevalent sleep disorder in the United States and has high comorbidity with a number of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). In this research we aimed to investigate the association of combined sleep behaviour with the incidence and severity of cardiovascular disease particularly coronary artery syndrome prospectively. In this study we consider patients with symptoms of coronary artery disease who go through a diagnostic angiography in Bezmialem Vakif University Hospital.

Method: A total of 70 male and female patients with stable angina pectoris free of severe comorbid conditions (diabetes mellitus, pulmonary arterial hypertension, CVD) aged between 40 to 70 were included in this study. To evaluate the sleep quality of patients who undergo angiography imaging for diagnosis and/or treatment of coronary artery disease we used sleep quality survey which is consist of 5 questions that evaluates duration of sleep, chronotype of sleep, insomnia, snoring and excessive daytime sleepiness and had 70 patients fill out the questionnaire survey. The angiography reports of these patients were evaluated using Gensini score and according to the results, patients were grouped as mild, moderate and severe. The Gensini score of each group patients have been compared to the score of their sleep quality survey.

Results: Four out of 16 patients with sever coronary artery stenosis had very poor sleep quality. 6 out of 9 patients with mild coronary artery disease had poor sleep quality. This is while no patients with normal coronary artery had a low score of sleep (lowest:3).

Conclusion: In this prospective study, a healthy sleep pattern was associated with reduced risks of CAD.

Key words: Coronary artery disease, sleep quality, insomnia, gensini score



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Determining the Relationship of Elbow and Wrist Muscle Strengths with Disease Activity and Functionality in Patients with Spondyloarthropathy

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Introduction: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is an inflammatory disease that, over time, can cause some of the small bones in your spine (vertebrae) to fuse. Given the risk of chronic inflammation and reduced physical activity, patients are also at risk of accelerated muscle wasting. We aim to compare the muscle strength of muscle groups in AS patients with the muscle powers of healthy volunteers and to examine the relationship of muscle strengths with disease activity and functionality.

Method: Forty males (20 AS, 20 healthy) were included in the study. Bath Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), Functional Index (BASFI), and AS quality of life (ASQOL) scores were recorded. The maximum (max) and mean elbow flexion, extension, (EF, EE), wrist flexion, extension (WF, WE), radial deviation, ulnar deviation muscle strengths of the patients in both groups were measured by a handheld dynamometer.

Results: There was no significant difference between AS patients and healthy volunteers in terms of muscle strength. The symptom duration was found to have a moderate negative correlation with all the muscle strengths (EF, EE, WF, WE, radial deviation, ulnar deviation). In the patient group, a significant negative correlation was found between the BASDAI and BASFI and all muscle groups.

Conclusion: There was no significant difference between AS patients and healthy volunteers in terms of muscle strength but the higher the disease activity and functionality, the lower the muscle strength in the AS group. Strengthening specific muscle groups for the desired goal can be a reasonable strategy.

Key words: Ankylosing spondylitis, muscle strength, disease activity, functionality, quality of life



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