

Abstract

Knowledge regarding subfertility among patients who are attending to general surgical and subfertility clinics at the Teaching Hospital Peradeniya.

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Abstract**Background**

Subfertility is a common medical condition which can lead to many social and psychological problems. Good knowledge regarding subfertility may help to decrease the incidence of infertility by allowing couples to avoid certain risk factors and it will facilitate the management. The aim of our study was to assess knowledge regarding subfertility among Sri Lankans.

Method

A cross-sectional study was conducted with a total of 426 subjects including 158 fertile participants, 138 unmarried participants from general surgical clinics and 130 subfertile patients from the subfertility clinic at the teaching hospital Peradeniya. Study was conducted using a self administered questionnaire during May, June and July 2015.

Results

Generally a poor level of knowledge (44.71%) was reported by participants. Knowledge was significantly higher in subfertile group (48.93%) compared to fertile (42.32%, $P=0.006$) and unmarried (43.47%, $P=0.035$) groups. Only 29.81% of total population knows when to seek medical advices for subfertility, with no significant difference between groups (fertile-30.4%, subfertile-28.5%, unmarried-30.4%). Though 69.73% of total population (60.1% of fertile, 89.2% of subfertile, 60.9% of unmarried) correctly recommended a Gynaecologist for first consultation, only 8.23% of total (7% of fertile, 4.6% of subfertile, 13% of unmarried) correctly selected Andrologist for male fertility problems.

Conclusions

These findings suggest poor knowledge regarding subfertility, particularly regarding male subfertility which is far less than knowledge regarding female subfertility. In general, subfertile patients have a significantly higher level of knowledge than fertile and unmarried patients, but regarding some specific points all three groups have a low level of knowledge.

Key words: Knowledge; Subfertility; Male Fertility

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