Assessment of Knowledge and Attitudes of Bachelor of Anesthesiology Students Regarding Patient Safety

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Background

Patient safety is a major concern in healthcare, particularly in anesthesia, where medication-related and other clinical errors may cause preventable harm. Because students are future members of the healthcare workforce, this study aimed to assess patient-safety knowledge and attitudes among bachelor's students in anesthesiology at Kashan University of Medical Sciences, Iran.

Methods

This descriptive-analytical cross-sectional study was conducted during 2024–2025. Forty-two eligible students in semesters 4, 6, and 8 were approached; 41 students were included in the final analysis. Participants had completed Clinical Internship I and were attending clinical practice. Data were collected using the World Health Organization (WHO) Patient Safety Questionnaire and analyzed with SPSS. Participation was voluntary and informed consent was obtained. The questionnaire contained 33 items across five domains: (1) error and patient safety (2) healthcare-system safety, (3) influence of individuals on patient safety, (4) individual attitudes toward patient safety, and (5) workplace safety. Items used a five-point Likert response scale, and five items were reverse-coded. The reported content validity indices were CVI=0.92 and CVR=0.83; overall Cronbach's alpha was 0.765.

Results

The findings revealed a moderate level of patient safety knowledge, with a mean score of 17.09, and a moderate level of attitude, with a mean score of 24.85. Within the "healthcare system safety" dimension, the highest score (3.66) was for staff training, and the lowest score (2.68) was related to medication errors. Students had positive attitudes towards error reporting and learning from mistakes, while the lowest attitude score (2.22) was observed in error criticism acceptance.

Conclusion

Considering the vital role of patient safety in reducing medical errors and improving healthcare quality, these results emphasize the necessity of targeted educational interventions in patient safety.The authors note limitations including the single-university setting, small sample size, and reliance on self-reported questionnaire data.

Keywords

Patient safety, Knowledge, Attitude, Bachelor of Anesthesiology students

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