

Health Care Professionals' Awareness of Language Delay in Sohag, Upper Egypt

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Abstract

Aims: To investigate the health care professionals' awareness of Delayed Language Development (DLD) in children in Sohag, Upper Egypt.

Methods: A cross sectional survey of medical doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and paramedical staff employed in three public health care facilities were asked to fill in a questionnaire. The questionnaire addresses knowledge and attitudes towards DLD.

Results: The main source of knowledge was relatives and acquaintances. Most of the participants advised a parent of a two-year-old child with DLD not to wait and seek medical advice. They thought that the best management of DLD is language training.

Conclusion: This survey may provide insights that can raise awareness among health care professionals and help in the treatment of children with DLD with greater competence. It also emphasizes the need for increasing education of future health care professionals through putting a course of speech pathology field in the curricula of medical schools which could prove to be particularly effective.

resources and suboptimal provision of services, especially Egypt which faces greater limitation of resources.

New attitudes are learned in essentially the same way all new

56.22%) acknowledged the difference. Age and scientific degree showed significant difference (p value=0.02, 0.02 respectively) (Figures 2 and 3). On the other hand, results indicated no significant differences in terms of Occupation (p value=0.46).

Factors	Response to Q6		P value
	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	
Age			
<35	17 (47.22)	19 (52.78)	
35-50	67 (47.52)	74 (52.48)	0.02
>50	4 (16.67)	20 (83.33)	
Occupation			

Ph.D.	1 (5.26)	18 (94.74)	
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Table 7: Relation between responses to Q7 and participants' characteristics. Q7: Do you know where do phoniaticians work in your city town?

Factors	Response to Q8		P value
	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	
Age			
<35	23 (63.89)	13 (36.11)	0.22
35-50	68 (48.23)	73 (51.77)	
>50	11 (45.83)	13 (54.17)	
Occupation			
Paramedical	55 (66.5)	44 (44.44)	0.34
Physician	42 (47.19)	47 (52.81)	
Pharmacist	5 (38.47)	8 (61.54)	
Degree			
Bachelor	10 (83.33)	2 (16.67)	0.02
Resident	14 (53.85)	12 (46.15)	
Master	12 (34.29)	23 (65.71)	
Ph.D.	7 (36.84)	12 (63.16)	
Q1			
No	25 (67.57)	12 (32.43)	0.02
Yes	77 (46.95)	87 (53.05)	

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