Knowledge and Practice of Prevention of Hepatitis B among Practicing Midwives in University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Calabar, Nigeria

Ella, R. E., Ph.D., RN/RM, RNT, FWACN, Samson-Akpan, P. E., Ph.D., RN/RM, RNT, FWACN, Akpabio, I. I., Ph.D., RN/RM, RPHN, FWACN

Background

Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) is the blood-borne communicable disease and the ninth leading cause of death worldwide (Bhat, Ghai, Deschenes and Wong, 2012). Though, a major public health issue world wide, the prevalence is higher in the developing countries than the developed. There is an average carrier rate of 10 - 20% in sub-Saharan African general population and 9 to 39% in Nigeria (Emechebe, Emodi, Ikejuna, Ilechukwu, Igue, Ejiofor and Ilechukwu, 2009). The high carrier rate and hepatitis B being an endemic disease in Nigeria reveal the associated risk of infection among nurses and midwives who have frequent contact with infected blood through invasive procedures. The most frequent route of transmitting Hepatitis B Virus is through needle stick injury. HBV is a hospital acquired infection which could be transmitted from an infected health care provider to patients or vice versa which calls for precautionary measures to be put in place to reduce the mortality associated with this disease. However, if the midwife is infected it becomes more precarious because the life of the mother and the baby that she come in contact with on a daily basis stands the risk of infection. This study, therefore, assesses midwives knowledge and practice towards the prevention and control of Hepatitis B infection in University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH), Calabar, Nigeria.

Methods

A cross sectional descriptive survey design was used to obtain information on midwives' knowledge and practices for the prevention of hepatitis B. Purposive sampling technique guided the recruitment of 120 practicing midwives who work in labour, ante-natal, post-natal and gynaecology wards of the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital from July to November 2013. A self-administered structured questionnaire with content validity index of 0.79 and a test-retest reliability coefficient of 0.81 was used to elicit information from respondents. Data was analyzed using simple descriptive statistics and parametric tests.

Results

The result showed that majority of the respondents 58 (48.4%) were between the ages of 25 and 34 years; majority of these respondents 83 (69.2%) had worked between 10 and 20 years and were mostly diploma holders, 96 (80%). The results also revealed that 78 (65%) respondents had good knowledge of HBV infection, and 83 (69.2%) respondents practiced universal precautions while 37 (30.8%) did not. Majority of the respondents 117 (95.5%) had never worked between 10 and 20 years and were mostly diploma holders, 96 (80%). The results also revealed that 78 (65%) respondents had good knowledge of HBV infection, and 83 (69.2%) respondents practiced universal precautions while 37 (30.8%) did not. Majority of the respondents 117 (95.5%) had never worked between 10 and 20 years and were mostly diploma holders, 96 (80%). The result also revealed that 78 (65%) respondents had good knowledge of HBV infection, and 83 (69.2%) respondents practiced universal precautions while 37 (30.8%) did not. Majority of the respondents 117 (95.5%) had never worked between 10 and 20 years and were mostly diploma holders, 96 (80%). The result also revealed that 78 (65%) respondents had good knowledge of HBV infection, and 83 (69.2%) respondents practiced universal precautions while 37 (30.8%) did not. Majority of the respondents 117 (95.5%) had never worked between 10 and 20 years and were mostly diploma holders, 96 (80%). The result also revealed that 78 (65%) respondents had good knowledge of HBV infection, and 83 (69.2%) respondents practiced universal precautions while 37 (30.8%) did not. Majority of the respondents 117 (95.5%) had never worked between 10 and 20 years and were mostly diploma holders, 96 (80%). The result also revealed that 78 (65%) respondents had good knowledge of HBV infection, and 83 (69.2%) respondents practiced universal precautions while 37 (30.8%) did not. Majority of the respondents 117 (95.5%) had never worked between 10 and 20 years and were mostly diploma holders, 96 (80%). The result also revealed that 78 (65%) respondents had good knowledge of HBV infection, and 83 (69.2%) respondents practiced universal precautions while 37 (30.8%) did not. Majority of the respondents 117 (95.5%) had never worked between 10 and 20 years and were mostly diploma holders, 96 (80%).

Discussion

The result of the study affirms a significant relationship between knowledge and practice of universal precaution. It was therefore concluded that deliberate programmes of continuing education and training be designed for the target population and other health care workers in general, and vaccines be continuously provided to enhance compliance to universal precautions and to prevent Hepatitis B in the clinical areas.

Conclusion & Recommendation

The result of the study affirms a significant relationship between knowledge and practice of universal precaution. It was therefore concluded that deliberate programmes of continuing education and training be designed for the target population and other health care workers in general, and vaccines be continuously provided to enhance compliance to universal precautions and to prevent Hepatitis B in the clinical areas. The result of the study affirms a significant relationship between knowledge and practice of universal precaution. It was therefore concluded that deliberate programmes of continuing education and training be designed for the target population and other health care workers in general, and vaccines be continuously provided to enhance compliance to universal precautions and to prevent Hepatitis B in the clinical areas. The result of the study affirms a significant relationship between knowledge and practice of universal precaution. It was therefore concluded that deliberate programmes of continuing education and training be designed for the target population and other health care workers in general, and vaccines be continuously provided to enhance compliance to universal precautions and to prevent Hepatitis B in the clinical areas. The result of the study affirms a significant relationship between knowledge and practice of universal precaution. It was therefore concluded that deliberate programmes of continuing education and training be designed for the target population and other health care workers in general, and vaccines be continuously provided to enhance compliance to universal precautions and to prevent Hepatitis B in the clinical areas. The result of the study affirms a significant relationship between knowledge and practice of universal precaution. It was therefore concluded that deliberate programmes of continuing education and training be designed for the target population and other health care workers in general, and vaccines be continuously provided to enhance compliance to universal precautions and to prevent Hepatitis B in the clinical areas.