

EVALUATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE STATUS OF PERFUSIONISTS IN TURKEY

By H. Fatih Aşgün

Evaluation of evidence-based medicine status of perfusionists in Turkey

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Background: Evidence-based medicine (EBM), which has been on the agenda for the last 30 years, is a systematic approach that includes the process of shaping the decisions made by healthcare professionals in the diagnosis and treatment processes of patients according to the best available scientific findings, personal experience and patient preferences. EBM aims to use the best available information and evidence for the health and well-being of the patient when making decisions in patients' medical care and related processes. On the other hand, extracorporeal circulation and oxygenation applications, which have an important place in medical and surgical treatments of heart, large vessel and lung diseases, are rapidly developing in the world and in our country. However, it has been reported abroad that perfusionists who carry out these applications do not have enough knowledge and attitudes about EBM. In our country, there is no data. The aim of this study is to evaluate the knowledge and attitudes of perfusionists who are actively working in Turkey about EBM, to reveal the related factors, and to determine the issues that should be included in the training processes.

Methods: Following the approval of the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Faculty of Medicine, the study was conducted at the national level on 106 perfusionists who have been actively working in a cardiac surgery clinic for at least two years. A questionnaire of 49 questions was applied to the participants. In the questionnaire consisting of five parts, demographic information (gender, marital status, education, foreign language, institution, average number of cases and job experience), knowledge about EBM practices, attitude status, skill status and self-efficacy perception questions were asked. Answers were received on a 5-point Likert scale. Knowledge score, attitude score, skill score and self-efficacy score were calculated from the responses, and compared according to demographic characteristics.

Results: The average age of the participants was 36.7 ± 7 years. Demographic data are presented in Table 1. The distribution of the knowledge, attitude, skill and self-efficacy scores of the participants according to demographic data is presented in Table 2.

Conclusions: We found that there were significant differences in the knowledge, attitude, skills and self-efficacy of the participants according to their educational background, foreign language knowledge and the institution they worked. It was determined that the variables increasing awareness about EBM practices are to have graduate education, to work in public and university hospitals, and to speak a foreign language. Problems such as not knowing a foreign language, not being able to access literature databases within the institution, not knowing how to access relevant resources, and not knowing how to evaluate scientific research results, prevent perfusionists from accessing evidence for practice. It is necessary to generalize EBM practices among perfusionists, and to provide training on this subject.

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