

PSYCHOLOGICAL ACCEPTABILITY OF THE SCIENTIFIC CONCEPT OF 'DEATH' AMONG AVERAGE HEALTHY ADULTS

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: During the last thousands of years, attitude towards death moved to denial from more acceptable ones and the concept turned towards science. So acceptability of the scientific concept of death might be questioned. The objective of the present analytical and correlational study was to verify the acceptability of the scientific concept of death among average healthy adults; **Subjects & Methods:** A total of 150 apparently healthy Bangladeshi Muslim adults (age range: 20-50 years) were included in the study. They were classified into 5 groups according to best believers and non-believers of after-life, each group consisting of 30 subjects with equal number of males and females, as the following: Group-A consisting of Muslim preachers who also say their prayers very regularly, Group-B consisting of non-preacher Muslims who say their prayers 5 times a day in due time, Group-C consisting of non-preacher Muslims who say their prayers 5 times a day but not timely, Group-D consisting of non-preacher Muslims saying their prayers 1 to 5 times a day, and Group-E consisting of non-preacher Muslims who say their prayers 0 to 5 times a day. These subjects were selected by stratified sampling technique where subjects were randomly selected under each stratum and interviewed with two sets of questionnaires, one evaluating the Neurotic Symptom Score (NSS) and the other evaluating the Death Rejection Score (DRS). Each group was provided with an ordinal score to compare the presence of scientific concept of death among them. All the scores were tabulated for statistical analysis and final results were analyzed by ANOVA and correlation coefficient; **Results:** Mean scores of NSS and DRS data demonstrated that with the gradual increase of the NSS score (Group-A → Group-E: 5 → 13.1), DRS also gradually increased (Group-A → Group-E: 1.1 → 2.93). The mean NSS and DRS values respectively differed significantly among the 5 groups of subjects [NSS → ANOVA: F-ratio = 3.22, df = (2, 145, 149), P < 0.05; DRS → ANOVA: F-ratio = 3.21, df = (2, 145, 149), P < 0.05]. Also, correlation coefficients between the ordinal scores and mean NSS and between the ordinal scores and mean DRS values in 5 groups were significant (Group-A → Group-E: NSS → r = 0.92, P < 0.05; DRS → r = 0.96, P < 0.01). **Conclusion:** It was hypothesized that the scientific concept of death is significantly unacceptable.

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PATTERN OF INJURY IN FATAL ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS: A STUDY OF 100 POSTMORTEM CASES

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ABSTRACTS

Objectives: The objectives of this study are to find out the pattern of injuries presented among the road traffic accidents (RTAs) victims along with related causes and to evaluate the present situation of RTAs in our country; **Subjects & Methods:** This study was conducted among 100 postmortem cases of RTAs victims at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue during the period of July 2002- July 2003. Among the victims 89% were Muslim, 4% were Hindu and 67% were literate. Most of the accidents occurred at daytime (32%), followed by accidents at night (28%); **Results:** Out of 100 cases, 61% were male and 39% female. Highest incidence of RTAs (22%) was observed among the age group 31 to 40 yrs. During various months of the year, most accidents occurred at September (13%), followed by July (12%), and August (10%). Highest number of victims were pedestrians (64%). Considering recorded casualty by type of collision, hit pedestrian were the most (37%), followed by rear end collision (23%), and head on collision (13%). Considering distribution of fatalities, most accidents took place on highways (81%). About vehicles, buses were (18%), followed by microbus (13%). Regarding Injury pattern in different parts of body, 100% victims had multiple abrasion and bruise, laceration were present in (92%), and injury to brain (78%). Injuries to abdominal organs like liver and spleen were 77%. Most of the fracture were seen in lower limbs (49%). Highest number of accidents were run over injury (79%). **Conclusion:** RTA is an unforeseen occurrence of an unfortunate nature happening suddenly, unexpectedly, in advertently. It is high time for concerned authority to take appropriate measures for reducing this economical burden and protecting vulnerable groups of people.

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TREATMENT OF PILONIDAL SINUS: STUDY OF 30 CASES

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ABSTRACT

Pilonidal sinus is a common disorder among young adults of age group 16-35 years occurring after puberty when sex hormones are known to affect the pilosebaceous gland and change healthy body hair growth. The present study was done among 30 cases of pilonidal sinus.

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EFFECTS OF CYCLOSPORINE A ON TISSUE PLASMINOGEN ACTIVATOR AND PLASMINOGEN ACTIVATOR INHIBITOR IN PSORIASIS

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: This prospective case-control study was performed to determine the plasma levels of tissue plasminogen activity (t-PA) and plasminogen activator inhibitor (PAI) to see the effect of cyclosporine A (CsA) on fibrinolytic system; **Patients & Methods:** Seventy sodium citrated plasma samples of biopsy – proven psoriatic Polish patients (37 males, 33 females) were analyzed for t-PA and PAI activities by commercially available enzyme immunoassay (EIA) kits at Lindlay Hospital Laboratory, Warsaw, Poland. Thirty six patients (19 males, 17 females) were treated with CsA dose of 5 mg/kg/day for six months. The statistical analysis of data was carried out using Excel computer programme packages. Thirty five healthy volunteers of the similar age, sex and environment of the patients were included as normal controls and their laboratory investigations of interest were done in parallel with those for patients; **Results:** Psoriatic patients taking CsA had significantly higher plasma t-PA activity levels and low plasma PAI activity compared with normal controls [t-PA (Mean±SD) : Controls vs Patients with CsA → 0.51 ± 0.77 vs 1.77 ± 1.21 , $P=0.000$] Psoriatic patients not taking CsA showed plasma t-PA activity levels significantly higher, whereas plasma PAI activity levels were similar to control group [Controls vs Patients without CsA : t-PA (Mean±SD) → 0.51 ± 0.77 vs 1.33 ± 0.84 , $P=0.000$; PAI (Mean±SD) → 19.0 ± 10.7 vs 19.4 ± 8.11 , $P=0.872$]. Psoriatic patients given CsA had a significantly decreased plasma PAI activity than those not given CsA, whereas the plasma t-PA levels were not significantly changed as a result of drug administration; **Conclusions:** CsA administration had no effect on t-PA, but psoriasis disease process stimulates the release of t-PA from endothelial cells. Therefore, we suggested that CsA down-regulates plasma levels of PAI in psoriatic patients.

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FOOD HABIT OF LACTATING MOTHERS ATTENDING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out from October to December 2005 to find out the food habit pattern, common food beliefs and their relations with educational and socio-economic conditions of lactating mothers attending Gazipur Sadar Hospital, Gazipur. **Subjects & Methods:** A total 150 lactating mothers were selected and necessary information were collected by direct interviewing with predefined structured questionnaire. Age range of the study subjects was 15 to 45 years and majority (104; 69%) were of less than 25 years of age. **Results:** Among the total of 150 respondents, 90 (60%) were illiterate and 48 (32%) were primary level educated. Majority of the respondents' occupation were housewife (90, 60%) and housemaids (30, 20%). Most of the respondents' (99, 66%) monthly family income was < Tk. 3,000. Forty (27%) of lactating mothers had no habit of taking extra meal and educational status had significant ($p < 0.001$) role on taking extra food during lactating period; **Conclusion:** In conclusion, it can be concluded that significant number of respondents (27%) had no idea about taking extra meal/food during lactating period and most (69%) of the women were becoming mother before their proper age. Respondents' educational status had very significant ($P < 0.001$) relation with knowledge of requirement and taking of extra food during lactating period.

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POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET) IMAGING TECHNIQUE IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

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ABSTRACT

Positron emission tomography (PET) imaging devices were first developed in the 1970. In the last thirty years PET imaging has been extensively used in research, but only in the last few years the technology has become more widely available for clinical applications. Most of the early works with PET focused on brain metabolism, partly because of the smaller size of detector needed to study head. With the introduction of improved instruments and suitable radionuclides, applications in oncology have developed into the major clinical uses of PET. Myocardial viability is usually assessed using perfusion studies with Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) but in case of inconclusive result, metabolic assessment with short-lived PET tracers may be more decisive. PET allows study of body function; it helps detection of alterations in biochemical processes that suggest disease before changes in anatomy are apparent with other imaging tests, such as computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The future of PET imaging is bright. New geometries are being studied especially to develop organ specific imaging devices, new detector materials are being developed and techniques for reconstruction are improving. However, perhaps the most important need for further utilization of PET imaging is the development of new radiopharmaceuticals or radiotracer compounds and better understanding of cellular physiology and metabolism in disease states.

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CONGENITAL LOBAR EMPHYSEMA WITH PDA AND VSD: A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Congenital lobar emphysema (CLE) is a rare condition (1/90,000) and present in early neonatal life with severe respiratory distress. A male child was admitted in Medical College for Women and Hospital at the age of 35 days with respiratory distress, hyper-inflated chest and respiratory tract infection. Diagnosis was made from the medical history, clinical examinations, plain x-ray chest and echocardiography as CLE with patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) and ventricular septal defect (VSD). Treatment was given conservatively in hospital. After initial treatment the baby was referred to National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease (NICVD) Hospital. Surgical Lobectomy with correction of congenital heart diseases is the empirical treatment for this case.

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