

An interventional study on knowledge, perception and behaviour on the management of fever by primary health care practitioners

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Introduction and objectives: Despite evidence-based data demonstrating beneficial effects of fever, health professionals' negative attitudes towards fever and their reliance on antipyretics including NSAIDs have persisted. Moreover, use of NSAIDs and inadequate knowledge on management of febrile phase of dengue fever at primary care has resulted in high mortality. To assess the impact of an interventional programme in strengthening the knowledge on new evidence based practices of management of fever and management of febrile phase of Dengue fever (DF), among General Practitioners (GPs).

Method: A questionnaire was developed, piloted and pre-tested prior to data collection. All registered GP's from Dehiwela and Mt. Lavinia municipal council area were invited. The self-administered questionnaire was given before and after an educational seminar.

Results: First choice of antipyretic was paracetamol (98.9%) and 28% often prescribed NSAIDs to reduce parental anxiety by bringing down fever. Tepid sponging was practiced by 92.3% to reduce temperature. After intervention overall knowledge on fever management mean scores significantly improved (from 75.1% to 84.9%, $p < 0.001$). A significant improvement of knowledge on when to suspect dengue fever ($p < 0.001$), differentiation of dengue haemorrhagic fever from DF ($p < 0.001$), warning signs for early admission ($p = 0.012$), Risk group identification