

analysis was done using SPSS and  $p < 0.05$  considered the level of significance at a Confidence Interval of 95%. Odds ratios were calculated by logistic regression.

**Results:** A GHQ score of over 6, indicating an impaired mental health status was seen in 20.3% of cases and 13% of controls and a positive correlation between psychological status and presence of asthma was noted. Once matched for socioeconomic status, still a significant number of parents with asthmatic children had impaired mental health status (adjusted odds ratio 1.2, CI 95%). Asthma control was as follows; controlled (27%), partially controlled (58.5%) and uncontrolled (16.2%). Psychological status had a significant impact on asthma control ( $p = 0.017$ ).

**Conclusion:** Childhood asthma has an impact on parental mental health, invariably affecting asthma control. The necessity arises for modes of psychological assessments to gauge the impact in order to deliver improved care for disease control.

#### PP120

##### **Knowledge and attitudes of Tamils with Diabetes Mellitus in a selected center, Batticaloa District**

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**Introduction and objectives:** Patients' knowledge and attitudes can positively influence behavioral change in individuals with Diabetes Mellitus (DM) which will facilitate the patients to adhere to diet, physical activities, and taking medication, which enable adequate metabolic control. The study was aimed to describe the knowledge and to explore the

attitude of Tamils with DM who were attending Diabetes Education Center, Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka.

**Method:** This is a mixed type study (Quantitative and Qualitative) conducted from January 2012 to December 2013. This is a descriptive cross sectional study, involving a systematic sample of 384 patients, using a pre-tested interviewer administered questionnaire to describe the knowledge of Tamils with DM. Two consultant physicians and two nutritionists who treat the Tamil diabetics were recruited voluntarily to explore the attitudes of Tamils with DM. In-depth interviews were conducted.

**Results:** Majority (73.3%) scored less than 50% in the knowledge test which indicates they have poor knowledge. The age, education levels, monthly income, family history of DM and employment had significant association with knowledge score ( $P < 0.05$ ). Many patients (95.3%) reported routinely controlling their DM through modifying diet. Further, Tamil patients with DM have poor diabetic self-management practices mainly due to ignorance of dietary habits and changing of lifestyles.

**Conclusion:** Patients with DM had an unsatisfactory level of overall knowledge related to DM. Education programmes are needed to address critical gaps in patients' knowledge. The better self-management of DM among Tamils would be achieved if they adhere to the acceptable practices by modifying lifestyles and changing the attitudes and practices.

#### PP121

##### **Unit cost analysis in neonatal intensive care units in two types of hospitals: study of Castle Street Hospital for Women and District General Hospital, Chilaw.**

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**Introduction and objectives:** Neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) are highly