

ABSTRACT

Background: Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is a recessive X-linked genetic disorder. DMD is caused by mutations in the DMD gene which codes for the dystrophin and affects approximately 1:3600 male live-born infants. DMD is characterized by progressive muscle weakness and degeneration that can be recognized from the age of 2 to 3 years. Most patients will lose the ability to walk and start using a wheelchair at the age of 10 – 12 years. Respiratory and/or cardiac complications are the most common cause of death in DMD patients aged around 20 years. General practitioners' knowledge and ability to recognize DMD plays an important role in early diagnosis and management of DMD patients so that it can improve the patient's prognosis. Therefore, it is important to explore the level of knowledge of general practitioners, especially general practitioners in primary healthcare as the first line of the tiered referral process.

Objective: This research intends to evaluate the level of knowledge about DMD in general practitioners working in primary healthcare in the city of Yogyakarta

Method: This research is quantitative descriptive study with a cross-sectional study design. The selection of research subjects was carried out using a consecutive sampling technique among general practitioners working in primary health care in the city of Yogyakarta with a minimum sample size of 68 people. Data collection was carried out using a valid and reliable questionnaire. The questionnaire was distributed to each primary health facility. The data was then analyzed in univariate and bivariate manner.

Results: 56% (n = 42) of respondents get a score greater than or equal to the median (72,72). There are 4 domains with an average score greater than or equal to the average score of all questions (69,33 ± 15,8): DMD modes of inheritance (72,00 ± 45,20), pathophysiology (74,00 ± 30,06), signs and symptoms (69,33±18,04), and follow-up (98,67±11,55). Based on the results of bivariate analysis, there are five sociodemographic factors that do not significantly affect the level of knowledge: tertiary education (p=0,858), working period (p=0,429), salary (p=0,433), type of primary healthcare (p=0,086), and age (p=0,223).

Conclusion: More than half of general practitioners working in primary healthcare have a relatively high level of knowledge. General practitioners have sufficient understanding of DMD in accordance with their competency level in SKDI. There is no significant relationship between the sociodemographic factors with level of knowledge.

Keywords: Duchenne muscular dystrophy, general practitioner, knowledge