HIV testing training for non-HIV-specialists in a tertiary hospital: change in attitudes and rates of HIV screening

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BACKGROUND

- Many HIV infected patients remain undiagnosed.
- National and international HIV testing guidelines are poorly known by non-HIV specialists.
- Awareness is essential to improve HIV screening.

OBJECTIVES

- Impact of a training session on HIV screening in:
  1. Attitudes and knowledge towards screening.
  2. Number of serologies ordered, positive and active infections.

METHODS

POPULATION
Prescribers of 31 departments: 17 medical departments (med) 14 surgical departments (surg)

DESIGN AND VARIABLES
Pre and post training, by department:
- Absolute number of HIV tests.
- Screening rate by 1000 attended patients.
- New HIV diagnoses.

RESULTS

Pre-training questionnaire:
- Knowledge of guidelines: 20% (28% med vs. 8% surg, p<0.001).
- When do you order HCV tests?:
  5% routinely, 60% if risk factors, never.
- Post-training questionnaire:
  - 98% considered the training useful.
  - 1 up to 22% showed positive attitude towards routine screening.
  - 1 down to 2% will never order screening HCV tests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIV tests/10^3 attended patients</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>HIV Diagnoses/10^3 attended patients</th>
<th>P</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Before-Training</td>
<td>After-Training</td>
<td>Before-Training</td>
<td>After-Training</td>
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<td>Med &amp; Surg</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>All Med</td>
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<td>7.1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>All Surg</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

** p = <0.001 (global); p<0.001 (med); p<0.001 (surg)

* Rate per 10^3 attended patients

CONCLUSIONS

- 24% increase in HIV tests requested after the training (p<0.001).
  - Significant in Medical and Surgical Departments (mainly gynecology).
- 48% increase of HIV diagnosis after the training (p=0.128).
  - Significant only in Medical Departments (p=0.07).
  - Greatest increase in Preventive Health and Nephrology