The knowledge, practice and barriers of evidence-based medicine among Malaysian Doctors: A nationwide online survey

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Evidence-based Medicine (EBM) is becoming more essential in clinical practice. We aimed to determine the knowledge, practice, and barriers to EBM among Malaysian doctors. **Methods:** A nationwide online survey among doctors working in government or private healthcare facilities in Malaysia was done from June to August 2022. The level of knowledge (K), practice (P), and barriers (B) were measured using the Evidence-Based Medicine Questionnaire (EBMQ). Higher scores indicate better knowledge, better practice, and fewer barriers. The KPB percentage scores were categorised into good (80%), fair (60–79%), and poor (<59%). The correlation between knowledge, practice, and barrier was measured using Pearson's correlation. **Results:** A total of 409 doctors responded. Their median age and total years of service were 34 (IQR=5) and 9 (6), respectively. The majority of them were female (57.7%), non-specialist (72.1%), working in hospitals (59.9%), government servants (82.2%), having no postgraduate qualification (54%), having never attended an EBM workshop (64.3%), having research experience (59.9%), and having no publications (65%). Most doctors had fair knowledge (53.8%), good practice (67.2%), and a fair level of barriers (67.0%). About 18% and 21% of doctors have poor knowledge and barriers, respectively. Only 0.5% had poor EBM practice. A positive and significant correlation among knowledge, practice, and barrier scores was noted (p=0.001). **Conclusion:** Malaysian doctors mostly practise EBM, despite having a fair level of knowledge and barriers. This demonstrated their acceptance of EBM. EBM workshops may help doctors to gain further knowledge. Stakeholders should address the barriers to EBM.