

EP04.04

The awareness of family physicians about child abuse and neglect in Turkey: a cross sectional study

Esra Meltem Koc(1), F Sahin Dagli(2), R Kahveci(3), H Can(1)

(1) Izmir Katip Celebi University School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine

(2) Gazi University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

(3) Ankara Numune Training and Research Hospital, Department of Family Medicine

Corresponding author: Assistant Prof Esra Meltem Koc, Izmir Katip Celebi University, Department of Family Medicine, Izmir, Turkey. E-mail: meltemnuzumlali@yahoo.com

Background: Similar to other countries, child abuse and neglect is a public health issue that has recently began gaining medical, legal and public importance, and has recently started to be discussed in the field of medicine in Turkey. The approach to child abuse requires teamwork. However, family medicine doctors that provide individually tailored protective, and primary diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative healthcare services have the most important role in the evaluation of cases with suspicion of child abuse and neglect or cases that are being diagnosed for the first time. The knowledge of doctors on the diagnosis, evaluation and legal reporting procedures of cases suspicious of or diagnosed with child abuse and neglect is insufficient. There is a limited number of studies on child abuse and neglect in our country, the topic has only recently started to find a place in pre- and post-graduate studies. Therefore, healthcare workers, particularly doctors, lack the knowledge and experience, and unfortunately, cases that present to healthcare facilities may be overlooked.

Aim: The purpose of this study is to identify the level of child abuse and neglect awareness among family medicine residents and specialists.

Method: The sociodemographic data survey consisting of 15 questions and the Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Scale consisting of 20 questions were distributed by sending study invitations to a mail group with 1350 members that are family medicine residents or specialists and the study was conducted online on a website.

Results: The survey was opened to online access on 09 January, 2016 and data is still being gathered. The results will be announced at WONCA EUROPE 2016.