

Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	MPH	Name	Korang Felix Kwame
Thesis Title	Seroprevalence, knowledge and occupational practices of street barbers and beauticians on Hepatitis B and C in Southern part of Volta Region of Ghana		
<p>Abstract of Master's Dissertation</p> <p>Background : Ghana is endemic for Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections. There is evidence that HBV and HCV can be transmitted through the operations of barbers and beauticians.</p> <p>Objective : The study aimed to determine seroprevalence, knowledge and occupational safety practices of street-barbers and beauticians on HBV and HCV infection in the southern part of Volta of Ghana. The specific objectives were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) assess the level of knowledge of street-barbers and beauticians on HBV and HCV infection2) identify working conditions and safety practices associated with transmission of HBV and HCV infections.3) determine the prevalence of HBV and HCV infections among street-barbers and beauticians. <p>Method : A community-based cross-sectional mixed method design was conducted in 5 selected district capitals in the southern part of Volta Region of Ghana. Multistage sampling was employed to select 340 study participants. One Environmental Health Officer was selected as key informants in each study site. Blood samples were collected for detection of HBsAg and HCV antibodies. Face-to-face interviews and direct observation were used to collect data on the knowledge and practices of participants. Composite scores were calculated on knowledge and practices for each participant. Descriptive and inferential analysis was performed using Stata version 16.0 at 95% significant level.</p>			

* The abstract, containing the objective, method, result and conclusion should not exceed 300-500 words and printed double sided on A4 paper)

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<p>Result :</p> <p>Out of 340 participants, 58.5% were beauticians. Most participants (61.8%) were in their twenties and had secondary education. Awareness about HCV and HBV was high (88.2%) however, majority (67.0%) reported poor knowledge. Most participants (53.0%) did not know that HBV and HCV can be transmitted through the sharing of their tools. Females were more likely (OR = 2.2) to have good knowledge. Participants with higher education and those with a heavy workload of more than 20 customers/day were more likely to report good knowledge (OR = 8.9 and OR = 4.5, respectively). Observed good practices were 31.5%, the majority of participants (55.2%) had diluted 70% alcohol disinfectant, only 29.0% practiced handwashing, and majority (81.1%) disposed of used sharps in a general wastebin. Hepatitis B vaccination coverage was 20.6%. The seroprevalence of HBV and HCV was 9.7% and 4.7%, respectively. Participants who had never had an injury at work and those who had not been exposed to customers' bodily fluids were less likely to test positive for HBV (OR = 0.13 and 0.10). Participants who ever had an injury at work were more likely (OR = 2.91) to test positive for HCV. The key informant interviews revealed that there was little or no licensing, monitoring and training organized for barbers and beauticians.</p> <p>Conclusion :</p> <p>Participants showed high awareness but limited knowledge about HBV and HCV. The general safety practices among the participants were poor and pose greater risk for transmission of HBV and HCV through the use of ineffective disinfectants and improper handling of tools. The study result suggests possible transmission through the activities of street barbers and beauticians. These findings may be attributed to the lack of regulatory systems and training for barbers and beauticians. (497 words)</p>			

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