

**RADIATION SAFETY AWARENESS AMONG
MEDICAL DOCTORS AT NORTH OKKALAPA
GENERAL AND TEACHING HOSPITAL**

YINN MAR HLAING

M.B.,B.S

Master of Medical Science

(Hospital Administration and Health Management)

M.Med.Sc (HA&HM)

University of Public Health, Yangon

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays use of radiation in diagnostic and therapeutic purposes is increasing concern because of its harmful effects. The awareness of medical professionals about radiation associated risks, radiation doses in diagnostic imaging and radiation safety is one of the main factors for decreasing the patient's dose in medical practice. Myanmar is one of the countries in which more advance modalities that used ionizing radiation are widely spread. So it's time to assess the radiation safety awareness among medical professionals for the benefit of them and their patients.

This cross sectional study aims to assess the radiation safety awareness among the medical doctors who were not radiation professionals at North Okkalapa General and Teaching Hospital. This study performed between September to December, 2017. Self administered questionnaire was used and this study recruited purposively half of sample from interventional doctors who used radiation in their procedures and another half from non interventional doctors.

Responded by 128 doctors, included 19 specialists, 93 postgraduate students and 16 assistant surgeons. Male 69.5% and female 30.5% participated and their mean duration of service was 4.7 years. The overall mean knowledge score percent of all participants was 50%. Only half of the doctors (51.6%) believed there is life time risk of cancer in a child from abdominal CT and 64.1% accepted that radiation increase risk of cancer in patients. Most of the doctors (>60%) did not know the radiation doses the patients received during some radiological investigations and one fourth of the doctors underestimated it. MRI and Ultrasound were wrongly associated with ionizing radiation by 22.7% and 1.6% respectively. Very few percent (3.9%) of doctors answered that they had got radiation safety training. Worryingly, none of the interventional doctors used dosimeter to limit their radiation exposure.

The present study demonstrated that awareness on radiation safety was deficit among the medical doctors. Therefore more training and education programs should be implemented for radiation safety practice.