

# Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Educational Needs Toward Hepatitis C Virus among Healthcare Providers and the Public

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**Introduction:** Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is a serious global public health problem and a major cause of acute and chronic hepatitis, liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma.

**Methods:** The aim of this cross-sectional study was to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and educational needs related to HCV infection among participants from all regions of Oman. The study used a convenience sampling approach, and participants were invited to complete an online self-administered questionnaire.

**Results:** Of the 602 survey participants, 57.6% were female and 42.4% were male, including 83 healthcare providers (13.8%). The majority of participants (55%) cited the Internet, friends, and social media as their primary sources of HCV knowledge. However, the participants' overall knowledge about HCV, including transmission and prevention, was unsatisfactory, with a mean total score of 16.69 out of 24 (SD = 3.24). Factors such as higher education level, being married, having a high monthly income, and working in the medical field were significantly associated with increased awareness of HCV ( $p < 0.001$ ). Moreover, the participants demonstrated poor levels of practice towards HCV infection, with a mean total score of 3.47 out of 7 (SD = 1.52). Additionally, 481 (79.9%) participants had not undergone HCV screening. The study found significant positive linear correlations between knowledge and practice ( $r = 0.261$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and between knowledge and attitudes ( $r = 0.228$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) towards HCV. Most participants (574, 95.3%) supported implementing school-based HCV education programs.

**Conclusion:** This study highlights inadequate awareness of HCV infection among healthcare providers and the general public in Oman. Improving knowledge about HCV can lead to better practices and attitudes towards the disease, emphasizing the need for developing policy guidelines and implementing health education campaigns to promote good HCV practices and elimination in Asian countries facing similar challenges.

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