



# Healthcare students' knowledge, skill and attitude about patient safety in Saudi Arabia: a cross-sectional study

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## INTRODUCTION

- In Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Health (2017) announced that national medical error claims increased by 37% over a 5-year period, in addition a meta analysis showed a 44.4% total incidence of medication error suggesting that there may be systemic problems in the healthcare system. (1,2)
- Patient safety is a critical part of healthcare delivery, a constant concern for health providers and measurement for healthcare quality therefore students need to understand and demonstrate appropriate patient safety skills early and continuously in their professional education. (3)
- The WHO designed a curriculum for all health professionals (Patient Safety Curriculum Guide Multi Professional Edition) due to the urgent need for the unification of standards worldwide. (4)

## OBJECTIVES

- Primary objective:** to study the senior health care students' knowledge, skills, and attitudes about patient safety concepts in Saudi Arabia.
- Secondary objective:** to explore the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of patient safety of health care students attending different universities.

## METHODS

**Study Design:** An electronic cross-sectional questionnaire, comparing two group in regards of patient safety knowledge, skills, and attitudes. The population were recruited purposively.

**Study group:** were healthcare students studying at Saudi universities who finished their didactic part of their curriculum.

**Control group:** were female pharmacist student completed the WHO patient safety curriculum.

**Survey instruments:** A 28-item questionnaire to evaluate students' knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

- Five multiple-choice items for knowledge.
- Five items for skills
- 18 items for attitudes.

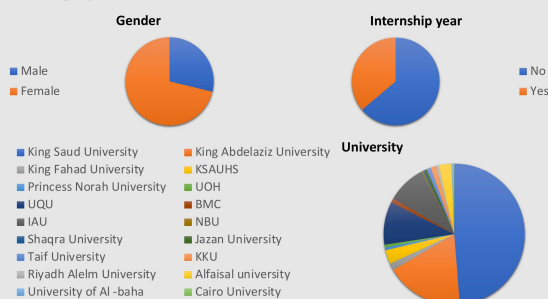
The skills and attitude items used a 5-Point Likert Scale.

**Statistical analysis:** Using SPSS software, descriptive analysis was conducted.

## RESULTS

A total 330 responses were collected, the majority were female students 228 (69.1%). The students were predominantly pharmacy students 113 (34.2%) and medical students 80 (24.2%). Overall, 319 (96.7%) students reported that patient safety courses were part of their curriculum.

Figure 1: Demographics:



## RESULTS

The mean knowledge scores were higher in the control group 2.41/5 (SD±1.198) compared to the study group 1.27/5 (SD±1.148) (p<.001). Pharmacy students scored the highest knowledge mean score 2.16/5 (SD±1.301)(p=.005) compared to students from other specialties.

Figure 2: Knowledge score stratified by health care specialty.

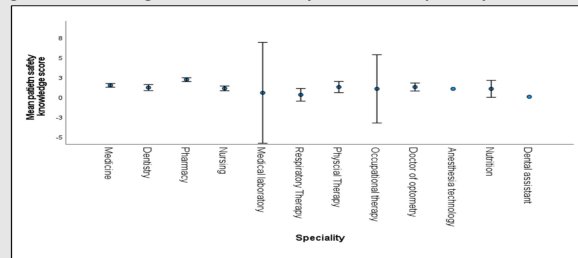


Figure 3: Skills Items.

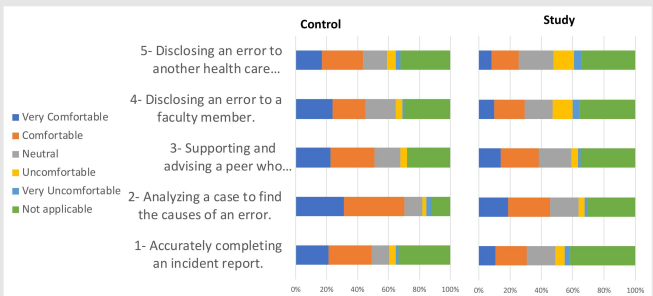
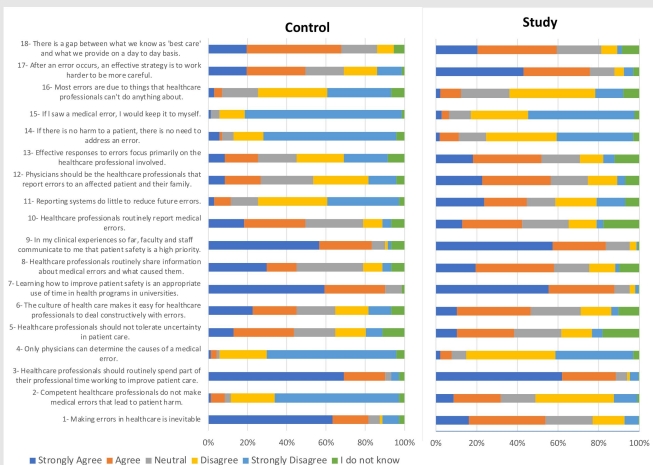


Figure 4: Attitude Items.



## CONCLUSION

Patient safety courses should be included in all healthcare students' curriculum. Moreover, the standardization of the patient safety curriculum should be the focus to ensure that the future health care providers have the appreciable knowledge to perform patient safety during their practice

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■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree ■ I do not know