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Title: Health Literacy in relation to Infectious Disease for patients with Chronic conditions

Abstract:

Background: Health literacy is described as the currency for improving the quality of health in the United States of America. There is no study showing the relationship between health literacy level and infectious disease in adult patients with chronic conditions. Limited or low health literacy levels are associated with high health system costs. The purpose of this research study is to determine whether the health literacy level will strongly be associated with infectious disease for patients with chronic conditions.

Methods: A cross-sectional surveys method was designed based on SAHL-Health literacy levels assessment tools. This study was conducted at Christian Hospital, 1113 Dunn Rd, St. Louis, MO 63136. The data was collected from two to four weeks. The survey in assessment form consisted of 18 questions related to demographic or background data to assess patients' health literacy levels. IRB approval was obtained from SIUE with IRB protocol number #1288. A score of 14 or less out of 18 points will consider low health literacy level.

Results: Out of sixteen patients, eight patients are classified as having low health literacy levels with a score between 0 to 14. The average percentage of patients that have correct answers was 74% with a range between 63-88 percent. Among patients that are classified as normal health literacy level (score of 15 or higher), two out of eight patients have 100% correct answers.

Conclusions: Based on the results of the study, the health literacy levels probably have a strong relationship with infectious disease in patients with a chronic condition at the age between 18-89 years old. However, further study with a larger sample size should be conducted to give a firm conclusion due to the small sample size of this study.