PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONNALS’ TRAINING IN CHRONIC PAIN TREATMENT

Anaïs Lacasse, Ph.D.

Université duQuébecen Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT)

INTRODUCTION / AIM

Previous empirical work has reported knowledge gaps and negative attitudes towards chronic pain (CP) and its treatment among various health care professionals (HCP), which constitute important barriers to adequate management of this condition. It was also demonstrated that lack of trust in HCP can lead patients suffering from chronic conditions to be more inclined to ask for a second opinion or use complementary and alternative medicines, which may in turn, result in a greater societal cost-of-illness. The objective of the present study was thus to measure public opinion about HCP training in CP treatment.

METHODS

Between May and June 2014, a web-based cross-sectional study about knowledge and attitudes towards CP was conducted among the general Quebec population. Using a 5-point Likert scale, participants were asked to report their level of agreement with the following statement: “Health care professionals such as physicians, pharmacists and nurses are well trained in chronic pain treatment.”

RESULTS

A total of 1883 participants answered the statement, among which 70.98% reported suffering from CP and 14.48% reported being a HCP (physician, nurse, physiotherapist, psychologist or pharmacist). A majority of participants (89.70%) did not agree that HCP are well trained in treatment of CP. This proportion was consistently high among subgroups formed by participants without CP (89.03%), participants suffering from CP (89.97%) or HCP themselves (92.88%).

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

The results of our study provide an additional argument that could contribute to enhance resource allocation in awareness and education activities for HCP about CP and its treatment.

OTHER AUTHORS

Manon Choinière, Ph.D

Judy-Ann Connelly, M.Sc.