

Knowledge On Bone And Tissue Banking In University Malaya Medical Centre: Are We There Yet?

Ramalingam S, Mohd S, Hanafi NN, Ariffin AF, Chan HH, Yusof N, Ng WM and Mansor A

National Orthopaedic Centre of Excellence in Research and Learning (NOCERAL), Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

INTRODUCTION:

Bone grafting has been conducted in orthopaedic transplantations for more than a hundred years¹. It acts as a substitute by providing mechanical support and supply of growth factors². In Malaysia, many orthopaedic surgeons are still opting for implants to perform surgeries instead of bone allografts. Tissue donation is still not as popular as organ and level of knowledge on donation among public has never been quantified. A survey was conducted to determine the level of awareness on tissue donation among a small group people. Findings from this survey could assist in designing the awareness programs by our Bone Bank.

MATERIALS & METHODS:

A simple, self-designed questionnaire was distributed during Organ and Tissue Awareness Week in University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) in 2015, which took place at the hospital entrance. The questionnaire consisted of 6 basic questions on donation. Following randomly convenience sampling method, the questionnaires were filled up or through interview by four Bone Bank staff. The survey data were compiled and analysed.

RESULTS:

Only 91 of 100 questionnaires distributed were collected. The respondents comprised 63 public (patients and visitors), 14 UMMC staff, 12 medical students and 2 UM staff. All students, UMMC and UM staff knew about organ donation but only 77.77% among the public. When asked about tissue donation, most of UMMC and UM staff responded well, 100% and 50% respectively. Poor percentages were noted among the public (38%) and the students (42%). Students also responded poorly to the questions on tissue transplantation (25%) while the rest responded fairly well (>50%). Most respondents were willing to donate their tissues as living or

cadaveric donors. The highest percentage were among the UM staff (100%) followed by the public (76.2%) for living donation. All UM staff (100%) followed by the public (68.3%) agreed to be cadaveric donors. When asking about the existence of UMMC Bone Bank, the public and students responded poorly, 21% and 25% respectively (Figure 1).

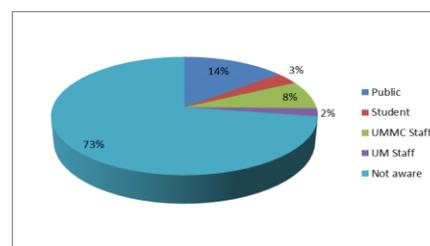


Figure 1: Knowledge on UMMC Bone Bank

DISCUSSION:

The results from the survey suggested that continuous awareness programs are needed to educate the public but also student, hospital and university staff. More information will be put up to make them conversant of the importance of tissue donation in general and roles of the UMMC Bone Bank.

CONCLUSION:

The survey managed to determine level of knowledge in tissue donation among those passed through the hospital entrance. Public as well as professional awareness programs will be designed. Flyers, poster and video might help to convey the message.

REFERENCES:

1. Tomford WW Cell and Tissue Banking 2000;1:105-9.
2. Goldberg VM in: Older MWJ (ed) Bone Implant Grafting. Springer-Verlag, London 1992; pg. 9-12.