

# Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices, and Educational Needs Regarding Chlamydia among Healthcare Providers and the General Public

## Authors:

**AL Zaabi O<sup>1</sup>**, Al Aamri D<sup>1</sup>, Al Hashmi N<sup>1</sup>, Al Battashi A<sup>1</sup> and Al Sharyani M<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Adult Health and Critical Care, College of Nursing, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

## Introduction:

Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) worldwide, primarily occurring among young people. It is often asymptomatic but can lead to serious health complications if left untreated.

## Methods:

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

## Results:

Of the 411 survey participants, 64% were female and 36% were male, including 48 healthcare providers (11.7%). The majority of participants (80%) had not heard about chlamydia. The participants' overall knowledge about chlamydia, including symptoms, transmission and prevention, was found to be unsatisfactory, with a mean total score of 16.23 out of 25 (SD = 5.98). Factors such as higher education level, having a high monthly income, and working in the medical field were significantly associated with increased awareness of chlamydia ( $p < 0.001$ ). Moreover, the participants demonstrated poor levels of practice towards chlamydia, with a mean total score of 1.48 (SD = 0.67). Additionally, 399 (97.1%) participants had not undergone chlamydia screening. The study found significant positive linear correlations between knowledge-practice ( $r = 0.312$ ,  $p < 0.004$ ), knowledge-attitude ( $r = 0.405$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), and attitude-practice ( $r = 0.248$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) regarding chlamydia. Most participants (365, 88.8%) supported implementing school-based chlamydia education programs.

## Conclusion:

This study highlights a significant knowledge gap regarding chlamydia among healthcare providers and the general public in Oman. Enhancing knowledge about chlamydia can promote positive practices and attitudes towards the disease. Hence, it is crucial to develop policy guidelines and implement health education programs aimed at enhancing the knowledge of healthcare providers and the general public regarding chlamydia.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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### **Human subjects approval statement**

Ethical approval was obtained from the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies and Research and the Ethical Committee of the College of Nursing at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU).