Abstract:

**Aim & objectives:**

To assess the knowledge and attitude about HIV/AIDS among medical and nursing interns.

**Materials and methods:**

The study sample include 200 medical and nursing interns from a private university in Chennai, India. The study group was divided into group A (medical interns, n=100) and group B(nursing interns, n=100).After obtaining their informed consent, a pre-signed structured questionnaire containing 20 questions related to pathogenesis, transmission, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS was distributed to the participants. The data obtained was subjected to statistical analysis (chi-square test).

**Results :**

There was an increasing in frequency of correct responses in group A compared to group B for most questions (16 questions) and the difference was statistically significance (P < 0.05).
However, a significant percentage of medical interns were unaware of the fact that saliva cannot transmit the virus and that it can be used as diagnostic medium.

**Conclusion:**

Medical interns were found to possess sound knowledge and good attitude about HIV/AIDS compared to nursing interns. However, medical interns require education in oral aspects of HIV/AIDS. This study emphasizes the need for further education and training about HIV/AIDS for nursing interns who are closely involved in primary health care for patients.