

AWARENESS AMONG DOCTORS ABOUT THE ROLE OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DYSPHAGIA IN COPD PATIENTS

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Objective: To assess current awareness among doctors regarding the role of speech language pathologist (SLP) in management of dysphagia in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients.

Methodology: Cross-sectional study involving 70 participants was conducted in two tertiary health care facilities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Information regarding their awareness was collected using self-administered questionnaire. SPSS was used to analyse the data.

Results: Out of 70 doctors, 28(40%) were not aware and 10(14.3%) disagreed while 32(45.7%) agreed that SLP plays an important role in the management of COPD patients.

Conclusion: There is good awareness about role of SLP in COPD management among the doctors and that these patients with dysphagia should be referred to SLP but less than half of them agree to do so, which is reflected in their practice. Consultants were more aware than those having lesser experience in their field.

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