The table highlights key knowledge gaps and misconceptions. While awareness of listeriosis as a foodborne infection is high, critical preventive knowledge is weaker. Only 53.3% correctly identified safe food practices, and many underestimated susceptibility and mortality, which could reduce adherence to preventive behaviors. Antibiotic knowledge is also concerning; over one-third would select an ineffective treatment, risking maternal and neonatal outcomes. Cultural misconceptions, such as mosquito transmission, suggest region-specific education is necessary.

Conclusions

Although general awareness exists, significant gaps remain that threaten maternal and fetal health. Focused education during antenatal care should clearly emphasize: Increased susceptibility in pregnancy (10–100× higher risk), Safe food handling, including reheating deli meats, Correct first-line antibiotic therapy (Ampicillin + Gentamicin).

Targeted, culturally sensitive interventions can improve knowledge, preventive practices, and ultimately clinical outcomes.

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KNOWLEDGE OF EARLY SEPSIS RECOGNITION AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS

Introduction

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition resulting in organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection and remains a leading cause of mortality worldwide [1].

Early recognition and on time management significantly improve patient outcomes, particularly in surgical and emergency settings [1].

Despite its clinical importance, studies show insufficient awareness and delayed identification of early sepsis signs among medical students.

Given that future physicians play a critical role in early diagnosis, assesing their knowledge is essential [2].

Goal

To examine the level of knowledge of early sepsis recognition among medical students.

Material and methods of research

A cross-sectional survey was conducted using a Google Forms questionnaire among 33 medical students.

The questionnaire included:

Demographic data (age, gender, year of study).

Knowledge of sepsis definition and urgency.

Recognition of early symptoms.

Awareness of qSOFA score.

Principles of early management.

Data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel, with results presented as percentages.

The results of the research and their discussion

General Awareness

Most participants reported familiarity with sepsis and recognized it as a medical emergency, indicating a generally high level of theoretical awareness (Picture 1).

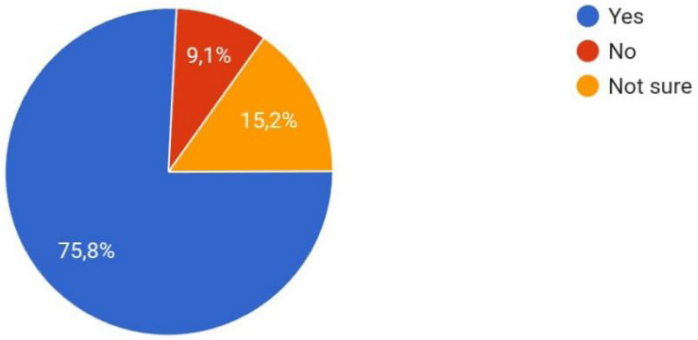


Figure 1 – Awareness of sepsis as emergency

Recognition of Early Symptoms

Most students correctly identified key early signs such as:

– Fever.

– Tachycardia.

– Altered mental status.

However, changes in responses suggests inconsistent recognition of full clinical presentation, which may delay diagnosis.

Knowledge of qSOFA Score.

A significant proportion of students were unfamiliar with qSOFA criteria, or incorrectly identified its components (Picture 2).

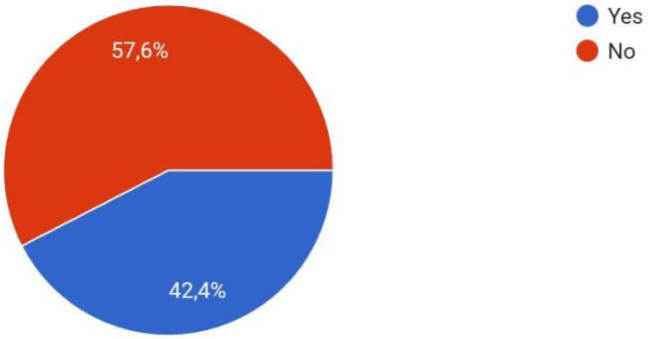


Figure 2 – Awareness of qSOFA score

This is one of the most significant findings, as qSOFA is a simple and widely used tool for early sepsis recognition.

Initial Management of Sepsis

Most respondents correctly identified:

– Early antibiotic administration.

– Fluid resuscitation.

However, fewer students correctly selected the recommended time frame (within 1 hour), indicating a gap in practical knowledge.

Confidence and Educational Needs.

Many students reported low to moderate confidence in recognizing sepsis.

The majority expressed a desire for additional training.

Table 1 – Need for additional training

Response Option	Number of Students (n=33)	Percentage (%)
Yes, need additional training	24	72.7
No, current knowledge is sufficient	5	15.2
Not sure	4	12.1

Most Significant Findings:

High awareness of sepsis as an emergency.

Poor knowledge of qSOFA score components.

Insufficient understanding of timing of antibiotic therapy.

These findings highlight a gap between theoretical awareness and clinical application.

A small number of respondents demonstrated complete lack of awareness of sepsis or incorrect definition, which deviates significantly from the overall trend of high awareness.

This may indicate:

– Early-year students with limited exposure.

– Variability in curriculum coverage.

Conclusions

Medical students show good general awareness of sepsis but lack sufficient knowledge in clinical tools and early management protocols.

The most critical gaps include:

– Poor familiarity with qSOFA score.

– Incomplete understanding of early intervention timing.

– Enhanced educational strategies, including simulation training and clinical exposure, are recommended to improve early recognition skills.

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