

Biological risk accidents among undergraduate healthcare students. Five years experience Accidentes de riesgo biológico entre estudiantes de carreras de la salud. Cinco años de experiencia

Fica C., Alberto

Jemenao P., M. Irene

Ruiz R., Gloria

Larrondo L., Milton

Hurtado H., Carmen

Muñoz G., Gabriela

Sepulveda C., Cecilia

Undergraduate healthcare students are exposed to bloodborne pathogens, and data from developing countries is scarce. We report the experience of a comprehensive program dedicated to the management of this risk. The program includes financial coverage, a 24-hour attention system, HIV, HBV, HCV testing, and free provision of post-exposure antiretroviral drugs. During 2003-2007, incidence rates of these exposures reached 0.9 per 100 student-years. Events were only observed among medicine, nursing, and midwifery students, with rates highest among nursing students (RR 3.5 IC95 1.93 - 6.51). Cuts and needle stick injuries predominated (74.7% of accidents). Three students were exposed to HIV patients (1.9%), all of them received prophylactic drugs, infection was discarded after follow up, and also discarded after exposures to HBV or HCV (0.6% of all accidents). Cost per 1000 student-year was less than 2000 USD. Healthcare students are exposed to biological risks during their studies and a com