Assessment of Knowledge About Chronic Kidney Disease in the Panamanian Population

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Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a group of diseases that affect kidney function. Recently, a growing number of people suffering from it have been detected in regions of Central America, with a mortality rate of 7% in 2015 per 100,000 inhabitants. In Panama, by the beginning of 2020, 2,500 patients in renal replacement therapy were reported. Therefore, reporting CKD from an early age would help improve life habits. This research seeks to evaluate the knowledge that the Panamanian population has regarding CKD, relating variables such as age, region and academic level. For this cross-sectional study, a 16-question questionnaire was prepared, approved by the bioethics committee. For the statistical analysis, we related the knowledge responses of 1262 participants, with the variables studied, using the Chi Square Test of the GraphPad version 6.1 program. It was found that university students have greater general knowledge about CKD than the group of people with secondary education. Specifically, participants with age ranges between 18 and 27 years old have less general knowledge than the rest of the age groups. Regarding the gender and region variable, no significant difference was found. In conclusion, more than 60% of the Panamanian population has general knowledge about CKD. However, less than 60% of the population is unaware of specific and preventive aspects of the pathology of the disease.

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