

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY: PERCEPTIONS OF UFLA VETERINARY MEDICINE STUDENTS ON EXPOSURE AND RISK FACTORS REGARDING TETANUS VACCINE

(ESTUDO EPIDEMIOLÓGICO: PERCEPÇÃO DOS ESTUDANTES DE MEDICINA VETERINÁRIA DA UFLA SOBRE EXPOSIÇÃO A FATORES DE RISCO E ESTADO VACINAL FRENTE AO TÉTANO)

N. A. AMBRÓSIO^{1*}, F. DA C. DIAS², L. A. CASTRO², M. P. BOTTINO¹, D. DE C. ANDRADE², M. F. M. ROCHA³

Tetanus is a worldwide disease caused by the toxin produced by *Clostridium tetani* that affects several species, including humans. Some factors, such as environment, occupation and vaccination, among others, determine the epidemiological profile. Given the importance of tetanus for public health and its possible occupational risk character, the UFLA Veterinary students' perceptions on exposure to risk factors and vaccination status against tetanus were evaluated. A questionnaire consisting of questions related to knowledge of the disease in humans and other animals was used as the evaluation tool. The sample consisted of 149 undergraduate volunteers, and the questionnaire was applied to Veterinary students of all years during the second half of 2011. Students were divided into two groups, using the discipline that addresses the research topic as a classification criterion. The first group consisted of 55 students who did not attend classes on the subject while the second consisted of 94 students taking classes on the subject. The results were given by a descriptive analysis of the data collected. It was found that 24% of participants could not say when they received the vaccination, and also showed ignorance regarding the average coverage period of the vaccine, and 25.5% responded that it was 10 years. Among those who answered the questionnaire, 54.41% believed that tetanus is an occupational disease more common in professionals of the agrarian field, due to constant contact with soil and rusty materials, the risk factors most frequently cited by undergraduates. There was a greater knowledge of the disease by more advanced Veterinary students when asked about animal health. On the other hand, there was consistency in all undergraduates answers regarding human health.

SUPPORT: CNPq and FAPEMIG

1 - Mestrando em Ciências Veterinárias pela Universidade Federal de Lavras – UFLA, Lavras - MG.

2 - Médico Veterinário formado pela Universidade Federal de Lavras - UFLA, Lavras – MG.

3 - Graduanda em Medicina Veterinária pela Universidade Federal de Lavras-UFLA, Lavras – MG.

*Autor para correspondência: natalia_ambrosio@posgrad.ufla.br