

PP024

## Knowledge, attitudes and practices on chronic kidney disease (CKD) among adolescents in a chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) endemic region

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**Introduction and Objectives:** Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a growing public health concern in Sri Lanka. The knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) on CKD are vital in implementing prevention activities and very limited numbers of studies have been carried out. The main aim of the study was to determine the KAP related to CKD.

**Methods:** The descriptive cross sectional study was conducted to assess KAP among adolescent school children in Kebithigollawa educational zone (KEZ) during September 2016. Sample size was calculated to detect 50% awareness about CKD among adolescent with 5% precision and 95% confidence interval. A pre-tested self-administered questionnaire was distributed among consenting students.

**Results:** 600 adolescents responded (Male:Female 1:1.4). Questions assessing knowledge of the causes, risk factors, signs and symptoms of CKD were answered by 65.6%, 54.3% and 48% respectively. Majority (84.8%) were aware about diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. 38.6% thought that dialysis was the only form of treatment. Among questions on attitudes, 84.4% students weren't aware of the risk of developing CKD in the near future. 28.3% were aware of a CKD risk, and feared it, believing it to be a social stigma to family. However, 92.6% thought that they can initiate preventive activities in their families. Majority of the students concentrated on good 'drinking water' as a prevention method. Their drinking water sources were filtered water (75.89%) well water (14.94%), tap water (3.57%) and bottled water (5.60%).

**Conclusion:** Majority have average knowledge but low attitude on CKD. This reveals important facts about social stigma and low awareness among adolescents on risk of getting CKD.