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## Application of universal precautions by operating room personnel in theaters of general surgery of teaching hospitals in baghdad regarding hepatitis B viral infection

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A cross sectional study was conducted in (Baghdad, Al-Yarmouk, Al- Kadhumiah, Al-Karama and Al-kindi) teaching hospitals during the period from 3<sup>rd</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014. This study aimed to assessment of universal precautions application among participants. Purposive sampling technique used to collect data from 397 operating room personnel. Researcher consented them for direct interview. Semi-structured questionnaire form and personal records used for gathering data. Chi-square and Ordinal regression used in the analysis, with 95% confidence level. Five out of ten found to have good adherence to application of the protective measures. While one of each ten had poor adherent. One-third of the participants were fully vaccinated by hepatitis B vaccine, while (23.9%) not vaccinated. Adherence to universal precautions significantly associated with respondents' age, sex, educational level, vaccination status and years of experience in the surgical theatre. Regression analysis showed that men are more adherent than women to universal precautions (Odds Ratio=0.576; p=0.024). Adherence to universal precautions among participants not received and not completed their hepatitis B vaccination was very poor compared to fully vaccinated respondents (Odds Ratio=23.92; p<0.001) and (Odds Ratio=3.565; p<0.001) respectively. In conclusion, adherence of operating room personnel to preventive practices against hepatitis B viral infection was good in general. Hepatitis B vaccination coverage among participants was poor.

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