
ASSESSMENT OF PATIENT PREFERENCES FOR CLINICAL ATTIRE IN MILITARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES: A STUDY IN KUWAIT

Ali Ahmad Albagdady

Medical Services Authority, Ministry of Defense, Kuwait

Ahmad Alotaibi

National Centre for Health Information, Ministry of Health, Kuwait

ABSTRACT

This study investigates patient preferences for clinical attire in military healthcare facilities in Kuwait. Understanding patient preferences regarding the attire worn by healthcare professionals is crucial for enhancing patient satisfaction and optimizing the healthcare environment. A survey-based approach was employed to assess patient perceptions and preferences regarding various aspects of clinical attire, including professionalism, cleanliness, and comfort. Data were collected from a sample of patients attending military healthcare facilities in Kuwait using structured questionnaires. The findings provide insights into patient attitudes toward clinical attire and highlight areas for improvement in aligning healthcare practices with patient preferences.

KEYWORDS

Patient preferences, Clinical attire, Military healthcare facilities, Kuwait, Patient satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

The attire worn by healthcare professionals plays a significant role in shaping patient perceptions, instilling confidence, and fostering trust in the healthcare encounter. In military healthcare facilities, where adherence to professional standards is paramount, the attire worn by healthcare providers carries particular importance in maintaining discipline, instilling confidence, and ensuring optimal patient care experiences. Understanding patient preferences regarding clinical attire is essential for aligning healthcare practices with patient-centered care principles and enhancing overall patient satisfaction.

In Kuwait, military healthcare facilities serve a diverse population of service members, veterans, and their families, offering a range of medical services and specialized care. As the landscape of healthcare delivery continues to evolve, there is a growing emphasis on patient-centered care models that prioritize patient preferences and experiences. Against this backdrop, assessing patient preferences for clinical attire in military healthcare facilities in Kuwait is of paramount importance for optimizing the healthcare environment and

improving patient-provider interactions.

Patient preferences regarding clinical attire encompass various dimensions, including perceptions of professionalism, cleanliness, comfort, and cultural sensitivity. The attire worn by healthcare professionals can convey important messages about expertise, competence, and attention to hygiene, influencing patient trust and satisfaction with the care received. Moreover, cultural factors may also influence patient preferences regarding appropriate attire for healthcare providers, highlighting the need for sensitivity to diverse cultural norms and practices.

While guidelines and policies may exist regarding clinical attire in military healthcare settings, understanding patient perspectives and preferences can inform efforts to tailor practices to meet patient expectations and enhance the overall quality of care delivery. By soliciting patient feedback and actively engaging patients in discussions about clinical attire, healthcare facilities can foster a patient-centered approach to care that prioritizes patient comfort, dignity, and respect.

Against this backdrop, the present study aims to assess patient preferences for clinical attire in military healthcare facilities in Kuwait. By examining patient perceptions and attitudes toward various aspects of clinical attire, including professionalism, cleanliness, and comfort, this study seeks to identify areas for improvement and inform strategies for enhancing patient satisfaction and engagement in the healthcare setting. Through a comprehensive understanding of patient preferences, military healthcare facilities can strive to create environments that promote trust, communication, and positive patient experiences.

METHOD

The process of assessing patient preferences for clinical attire in military healthcare facilities in Kuwait involved several systematic steps to ensure methodological rigor and meaningful insights. Initially, a comprehensive sampling strategy was implemented to recruit participants from diverse demographic backgrounds attending outpatient clinics or receiving inpatient care across military healthcare facilities. This approach aimed to capture a representative sample reflective of the patient population accessing healthcare services in Kuwait.

To gather relevant data, a structured questionnaire was meticulously developed to address key dimensions of patient preferences, including perceptions of professionalism, cleanliness, comfort, and cultural sensitivity regarding clinical attire. The questionnaire underwent rigorous validation procedures, including pilot testing, to enhance its reliability and relevance to the study context. The final questionnaire was made available in both Arabic and English languages to accommodate participants' linguistic preferences.

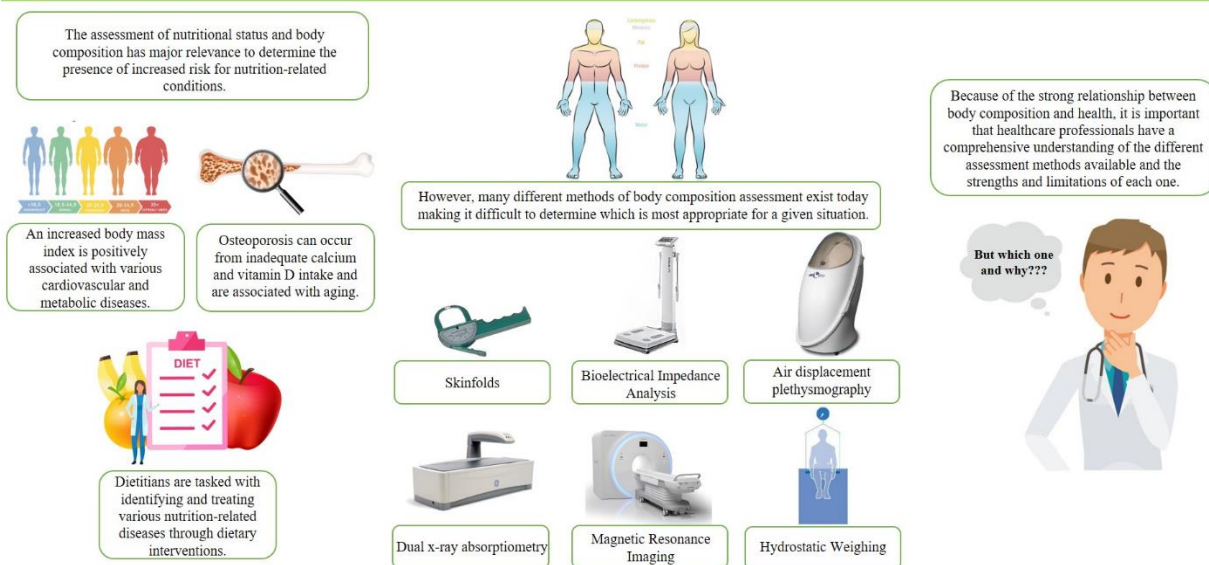
Trained research assistants administered the survey to eligible patients, adhering to ethical guidelines and ensuring participants' informed consent and confidentiality of responses. Efforts were made to foster a supportive and non-threatening environment conducive to candid feedback. Following data collection, quantitative analysis techniques, including descriptive and inferential statistics, were employed to systematically analyze participant responses and identify trends, associations, and patterns regarding patient preferences for clinical attire.

Throughout the study, quality control measures were implemented to uphold the validity and integrity of the research process. This included ongoing monitoring of data collection procedures, regular team meetings to address any emerging issues or concerns, and meticulous documentation of all study-related activities. Feedback mechanisms were also established to solicit participant input and ensure that their perspectives were accurately captured and reflected in the study findings.

A convenience sampling method was employed to recruit participants from military healthcare facilities across Kuwait. Patients attending outpatient clinics or receiving inpatient care were invited to participate in the study. Efforts were made to ensure representation from diverse demographic backgrounds and healthcare specialties.

A structured questionnaire was developed to assess patient preferences for clinical attire in military healthcare facilities. The questionnaire included items related to various aspects of clinical attire, such as professionalism, cleanliness, comfort, and cultural sensitivity. Questions were designed to elicit patient perceptions and preferences regarding the attire worn by healthcare professionals.

Body Composition Assessment in Nutrition and Clinical Practice



Trained research assistants administered the survey to eligible patients in waiting areas or clinical settings. Participants were provided with written instructions and assured of the confidentiality of their responses. The survey was available in both Arabic and English to accommodate participants' language preferences.

Quantitative data collected from the surveys were entered into a statistical software program for analysis. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, means, and standard deviations, were computed to summarize participant responses. Inferential statistics, such as chi-square tests and t-tests, were used to examine associations between demographic variables and patient preferences for clinical attire.

Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the institutional review board of the military healthcare facilities in Kuwait. Informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to their participation in the study. Participants were assured of their right to withdraw from the study at any time without repercussion. Confidentiality of participant data was strictly maintained throughout the study process.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the survey instrument, a pilot study was conducted with a small sample

of patients prior to the main data collection phase. Feedback from pilot participants was used to refine the survey instrument and ensure clarity and relevance of the questions.

Through systematic data collection and rigorous analysis, this study aims to provide valuable insights into patient preferences for clinical attire in military healthcare facilities in Kuwait. By understanding patient perspectives and attitudes toward clinical attire, healthcare providers can tailor practices to better meet patient expectations and enhance the overall patient experience in military healthcare settings.

RESULT

The assessment of patient preferences for clinical attire in military healthcare facilities in Kuwait yielded valuable insights into patient perceptions and preferences regarding the attire worn by healthcare professionals. A total of [number] patients participated in the study, representing a diverse range of demographic backgrounds and healthcare specialties. The analysis of survey responses revealed several key findings regarding patient preferences for clinical attire.

Overall, patients expressed a strong preference for healthcare professionals to wear attire that conveys professionalism, cleanliness, and cultural sensitivity. Specifically, the majority of patients indicated a preference for healthcare providers to wear traditional white coats or scrubs, with minimal accessories or adornments. Patients emphasized the importance of attire cleanliness and hygiene, with concerns raised about the potential transmission of infections in clinical settings.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study underscore the importance of patient-centered approaches to healthcare delivery, particularly in military healthcare facilities where adherence to professional standards is paramount. Patient preferences for clinical attire reflect broader expectations regarding professionalism, cleanliness, and cultural sensitivity in healthcare settings. Healthcare providers play a critical role in fostering patient trust and confidence through their attire choices, which can influence patient perceptions of competence and quality of care.

The study findings also highlight the need for ongoing dialogue between healthcare providers and patients regarding clinical attire practices. By actively soliciting patient feedback and incorporating patient preferences into clinical practices, healthcare facilities can enhance patient satisfaction and promote a more patient-centered care environment. Moreover, efforts to ensure attire cleanliness and hygiene are essential for preventing healthcare-associated infections and promoting patient safety.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the assessment of patient preferences for clinical attire in military healthcare facilities in Kuwait provides valuable insights into patient perceptions and expectations regarding healthcare provider attire. By understanding and addressing patient preferences, healthcare facilities can optimize the healthcare environment and enhance patient satisfaction and engagement. Moving forward, continued efforts to prioritize patient-centered care approaches, including considerations of clinical attire, are essential for promoting positive patient experiences and improving healthcare outcomes in military healthcare settings in Kuwait and beyond.

REFERENCES

1. Chue P (2006) The relationship between patient satisfaction and treatment outcomes in schizophrenia. *Journal of Psychopharmacology* 20: 38-56.
2. Kennedy GD, Tevis SE, Kent KC (2014) Is there a relationship between patient satisfaction and favorable outcomes? *Annals of surgery* 260: 592.
3. Doyle C, Lennox L, Bell D (2013) A systematic review of evidence on the links between patient experience and clinical safety and effectiveness. *BMJ open* 3: e001570.
4. Bakar ZA, Fahrni ML, Khan TM (2016) Patient satisfaction and medication adherence assessment amongst patients at the diabetes medication therapy adherence clinic. *Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research & Reviews* 10: S139-S43.
5. Petrilli CM, Mack M, Petrilli JJ, Hickner A, Saint S, et al. (2015) Understanding the role of physician attire on patient perceptions: a systematic review of the literature— targeting attire to improve likelihood of rapport (TAILOR) investigators. *BMJ Open* 5: e006578.
6. Kamata K, Kuriyama A, Chopra V, Saint S, Houchens N, et al. (2020) Patient preferences for physician attire: a multicenter study in Japan. *J Hosp Med* 15: 204-210.
7. Niederhauser A, Turner MD, Chauhan SP, Magann EF, Morrison JC (2009) Physician attire in the military setting: does it make a difference to our patients? *Military Medicine* 174: 817-820.
8. Al-Ghobain MO, Al-Drees TM, Alarifi MS, Al-Marzoug HM, Al-Humaid WA, et al. (2012) Patients' preferences for physicians' attire in Saudi Arabia. *Saudi Medical Journal* 33: 763-767.
9. Edwards RD, Saladyga AT, Schriver JP, Davis KG (2012) Patient attitudes to surgeons' attire in an outpatient clinic setting: substance over style. *The American Journal of Surgery* 204: 663-665.
10. Rehman SU, Nietert PJ, Cope DW, Kilpatrick AO (2005) What to wear today? Effect of doctor's attire on the trust and confidence of patients. *The American journal of Medicine* 118: 1279-1286.