Research

Patterns of needle disposal among insulin using patients with Diabetes Mellitus: An audit

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Background

Oral Antidiabetic Drugs (OADs) remain the mainstay in the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM).

Insulin therapy becomes inevitable as the disease progresses.

Roughly 4 of 10 patients with T2DM in India are using insulin alone or in combination with OADs at any given point of time.

Where are they disposing the syringes and needles?

Burden of the Problem

- Sharp disposal is strictly regulated in hospital settings, BUT this is not the case in the community.
- At home insulin usage- No guidelines
 - 1. Needle Stick Injuries
 - 2. Transmission of Blood Borne Infections (BBI)
 - 3. Environmental Pollution

Literature Review

• Studies done in different countries showed that proportion of various kinds of sharps thrown into the household bin varied from 46.9% to 67.6%.

- Studies done in developed countries have also showed improper sharp disposal practices among diabetes patients to be as high as 80–90%
- Only in less than 10% of cases specific containers were used to dispose insulin injection waste.

Guidelines

1.Place all needles in a sharps disposal container immediately after use.

2.Sharps disposal containers should be kept out of reach of children and pets.

3.When sharps disposal container is about three-quarters (3/4) full - DISCARD

4. DO NOT reuse sharps disposal containers by accessing through these services:

- Drop Box or Supervised Collection Sites
- Household Hazardous Waste
 Collection Sites
- Mail-Back Programs
- Residential Special Waste
 Pick-Up Services

Audit Design

- Aim-to assess the prevalence of safe disposal of insulin needles among diabetic patients.
- Method- data collected from diabetic individuals coming to our OPD from Aug 15th to Sep 15th.
- This was a cross-sectional study using convenience sampling technique.

Audit Design- continued

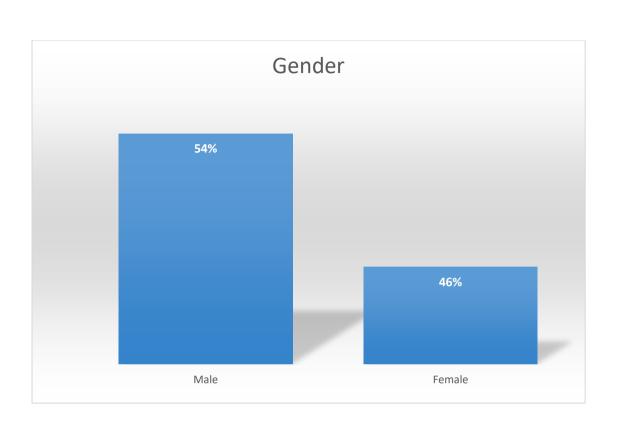
Results

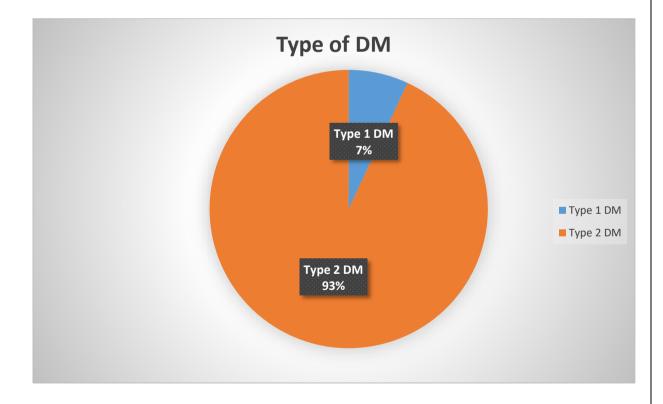
Safe sharps disposal - discarding used insulin needles in designated sharps or puncture-resistant containers;

- Other sharps disposal methods Unsafe.
- A semi structured questionnaire was designed which our OPD Staff filled after discussing with them.
 - Type of Diabetes
 - Duration of Insulin Use
 - Education on Syringe Disposal

Gender	Count	%
Male	186	54%
Female	158	46%
Over All	344	

Type of DM	Count	%
Type 1 DM	24	7%
Type 2 DM	320	93%
Over All	344	

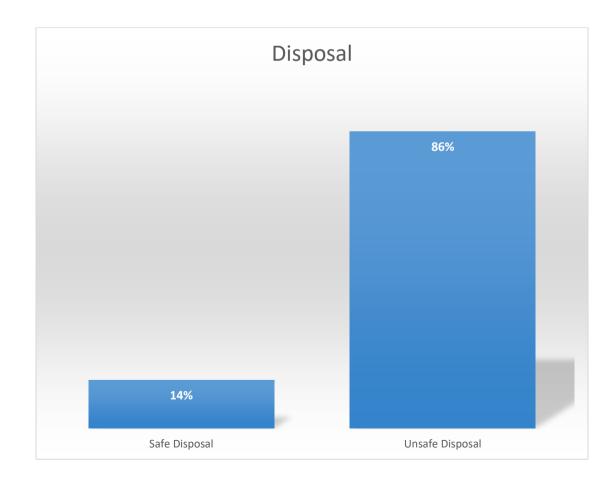


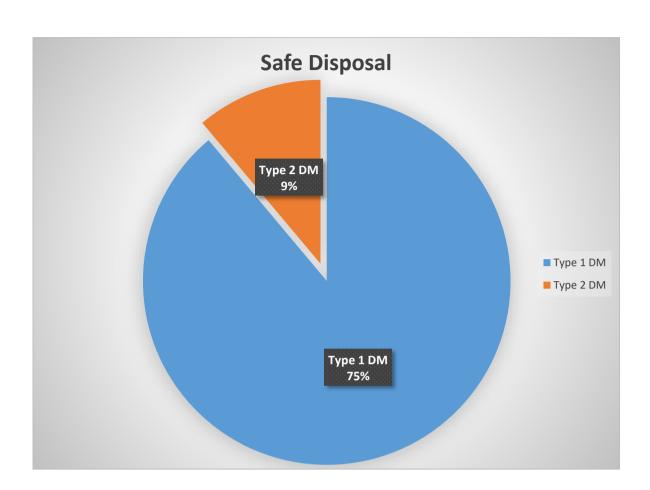


Results: Safe & Unsafe

Disposal	Count	%
Safe Disposal	48	14%
Unsafe Disposal	296	86%
Over All	344	

Safe Disposal			
Type of DM	Count	%	
Type 1 DM	18/24	75%	
Type 2 DM	30/320	9%	
Over All	48/344	14%	



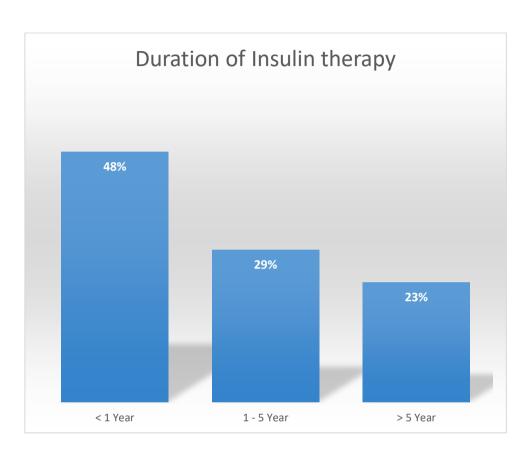


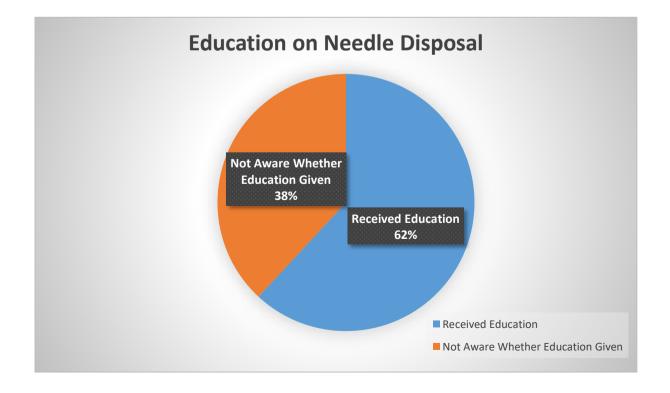
Duration of Insulin & Type of DM

Dur of Insulin	Count	%
<1 Year	23	48%
1 - 5 Year	14	29%
>5 Year	11	23%
Over All	48	

Education on Needle Disposal	Count	%
Received Education	213	62%
Not Aware Whether Education Given	131	38%
Over All	344	

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Patterns of Insulin Disposal

- Drainage
- Kitchebn Waste
- Unused Well/Lake
- Burn and Dispose
- Bury in the Ground
- Flush in the Toilet

Conclusion

- SAFE SHARP DISPOSAL practice was VERY LOW in our sample. (14%)
- Safe insulin disposal practice wanes off as duration of insulin usage increases.
- Type 1 Diabetic children are following safe disposal advice than adults
- One third of the patients are not aware about the education received.

Recommendations

- 1. Education on safe disposal
- 2. Pictorial display
- 3. Annual comprehensive check-up reassess insulin technique and disposal practice
- 4. Request To the pharmacy- Plastic container for sale

Education before Audit





Notice on Board



References

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