



PSP 75th Annual Convention Research Competition



Oral Presentation

Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Medical Doctors on Adherence to Clinical Guidelines for Frozen Section Biopsy in a Tertiary Hospital

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ABSTRACT

Background. Frozen section biopsy (FSB) is a critical intraoperative diagnostic procedure that supports real-time surgical decision-making. Its accuracy and clinical value depend not only on technical laboratory processes but also on physicians' knowledge, attitudes, practices, and adherence to institutional clinical guidelines. In tertiary hospitals with high surgical volume, variations in guideline compliance may affect diagnostic reliability and patient safety.

Objective. This study examined the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of medical doctors regarding FSB and assessed their adherence to institutional clinical guidelines and standards.

Methodology. A descriptive-correlational research design was conducted among 105 surgical residents and fellows at a tertiary hospital in the Philippines. Data were collected using a validated, researcher-developed questionnaire that measured knowledge, attitudes, practices, and adherence to FSB clinical guidelines. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize levels of knowledge, attitude, practice, and adherence. Correlation analysis was performed to determine the relationships among these variables.

Results. The respondents demonstrated a generally knowledgeable level of FSB knowledge (mean = 2.51), a neutral attitude toward FSB implementation (mean = 3.17), and a high level of procedural practice compliance (mean = 4.03). Adherence to institutional clinical guidelines was rated as sometimes observed across key domains, particularly in referral processes and endorsement protocols. Significant associations were identified between components of knowledge, attitudes, and practices and adherence to FSB standards.

Conclusion. While medical doctors showed adequate procedural practice and foundational knowledge of FSB, inconsistencies in adherence to institutional clinical guidelines remain. Strengthening policy dissemination, clarifying professional roles in FSB decision-making, and reinforcing interdisciplinary communication are necessary to enhance compliance, improve diagnostic reliability, and promote patient safety.

Key words. *frozen section biopsy, clinical guidelines, pathology practice, diagnostic accuracy, quality assurance*