

ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study was conducted to determine the current level of knowledge and attitudes towards epilepsy among medical students in Indonesia. The attitudes and epilepsy-related knowledge of medical students are an important component of quality of care for patients with epilepsy.

Method: The study was conducted using the Scale of Attitudes Towards Person with Epilepsy (ATPE), a summated rating scale that measures both attitudes towards persons with epilepsy and knowledge about epilepsy, as well as demographic and several additional attitude and knowledge items. The questionnaire was administered to a voluntary participating sample of 222 medical students of Airlangga University, Indonesia.

Results: It was found that 95,5% of students had heard about epilepsy, while 62,2% had observed a seizure. Using *Spearman* correlation test, it was found that ATPE Knowledge and ATPE Attitude scores were negatively related to study period in medical school. The most common negative attitudes toward epilepsy were students' objection to person with epilepsy should be prohibited from driving and individuals with epilepsy are a danger to the public.

Conclusion: The results suggest that student's attitudes and knowledge towards epilepsy were generally positive. Medical students' knowledge is most important factor influencing medical students' attitudes toward epilepsy. Nevertheless, there is a still a need to improve certain aspect of knowledge and understanding of epilepsy among medical students.

Keywords: *Epilepsy, Knowledge, Attitude, Medical students, Indonesia*