The study of patients, privacy and confidentiality in the inpatient clinics in Khartoum teaching hospitals in the period June/2012

Abstract

**Background:** Confidentiality is one of the core tenets of medical practice. The nature of patient care, however, poses a number of vulnerable and intimate situations with healthcare providers and more generally in the health care environment. Ensuring privacy is one of the goals needed to improve, preserve, and protect the health of the patient.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted to study the patient privacy in Khartoum teaching hospital using a questionnaire. 160 patients were included in the study.

**Results:** Total of 160 questionnaires was filled. Around thirty percent of patients of the studied group know or at least had heard about their rights in the hospitals. The most common breach in privacy is during physical examination about 20% followed by history taking and lastly during investigation.

**Conclusion:** It is suggested that lack of privacy is a major lack in health service in at least this teaching hospital. This lack is difficult to repair as the people who have the right to complain do not do, as more 75% of them do not know their rights in hospital. Confidentiality importance is very clear in that even the low percent of patient who complain this had affected their talk and giving information.