

ISSN: 2456-0057
IJPNPE 2021; 6(2): 134-142 © 2021 IJPNPE
www.journalofsports.com
Received: 11-06-2021
Accepted: 13-07-2021
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# Awareness, knowledge \& perception on hypertension \& self-care practices among general population of both male \& female adults 

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#### Abstract

This cross-sectional study was conducted among general population of either gender in the state of Maharashtra, India. The age of the respondent were $18+$ yrs. Total number of participants were 186. Among them $69.89 \%$ male, $30.11 \%$ female. Their occupations student $18.8 \%$, home maker $5.9 \%$, service $39.8 \%$, unemployed $5.4 \%$, retired $1.6 \%$, business $24.2 \%$ \& other occupations $4.3 \%$. Among them $13.98 \%$ suffering from Hypertension, $52.69 \%$ not yet diagnosed \& $33.33 \%$ respondent not yet checked. Among the participant who are diagnosed hypertension $61.54 \%$ taking medicine regularly, $11.53 \%$ irregular \& $26.92 \%$ not taking medicine. History of hypertension in either parent was $32.8 \%$ \& $53.22 \%$ does not have history of hypertension in either parent. $40.86 \%$ respondents checked Blood Pressure (BP) regularly. Among the respondents $45.7 \%$ do less than 30 minutes of physical activity \& $7.53 \%$ more the 2 hours do physical activity. $1.61 \%$ consume alcohol daily \& $0.54 \%$ use tobacco products more than 5 times per day. Hypertension is emerging as a major public health problem. People should be aware about the risk factors associated with Hypertension.


Keywords: Hypertension, Awareness, Preventive measures.

## Introduction

Hypertension is a worldwide risk factor for cardiovascular disease burden \& mortality. It is a disease related to risky health behaviours such as smoking, over weight, alcohol consumption, physical activity etc. ${ }^{[1]}$. As per World Health Organization report ${ }^{[2]}$, about $40 \%$ of people Aged more than 25 yrs had hypertension. Hypertension is one of the main risk factors for adverse cardiovascular $\&$ ccerebrovascular events, is a serious medical, social \& economic problem worldwide. Despite progress in the therapy of hypertension \& improvement in detectability of the condition, the number of patients with hypertension is still increasing. Education makes the people aware of the disease \& what precautions can be undertaken by the health individual ${ }^{[4]}$. High blood pressure / hypertension, being an established modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease, morbidity \& mortality ${ }^{[5]}$. Globally hypertension is the second most important preventable risk factor contributing to $13 \%$ of deaths. Antihypertensive medication is one of the measure to manage hypertension.

## Materials \& methods

This cross-sectional study was conducted among the population in Maharashtra, India of both male \& female gender who agreed to take part in the study. Total number of respondents were 186. Re-validated questionnaire via Google form was uploaded. The data were entered into the Microsoft Excel \& was analyzed.

## Results \& discussion



Fig 1: Gender

| Gender | No. of participants (out <br> of 186) | Percentage | Average age <br> in years) | Average <br> height in cm | Average <br> weight | Education <br> (Average years) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Male | 130 | 69.89 | 36.74 | 166.47 | 63.68 | 14.33 |
| Female | 56 | 30.11 | 37 | 166.2 | 63.54 | 14.22 |
| Combined |  |  | 37 | 166.27 | 63.58 | 14.23 |



Fig 2: Occupation

| Occupation | No. of participants | \% | No. of males | No. of females |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Student | 35 | 18.8 | 28 | 7 |
| Homemaker | 11 | 5.9 | 0 | 11 |
| Service | 74 | 39.8 | 51 | 23 |
| Unemployed | 10 | 5.4 | 10 | 0 |
| Retired | 3 | 1.6 | 3 | 0 |
| Business | 45 | 24.2 | 32 | 13 |
| Other | 8 | 4.3 | 6 | 2 |



Fig 3: No. of participants
Table 1: Have you been diagnosed to have hypertension?

|  | No. of participants | \% | No. of males | No. of females |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | 26 | 13.98 | 14 | 12 |
| No | 98 | 52.69 | 71 | 27 |
| Never checked- don't know | 62 | 33.33 | 45 | 17 |

Average age of participants diagnosed with hypertension=48.61 yrs

## if yes, when was hypertension diagnosed



Fig 4: If Yes, When Was Hypertension Diagnosed

Table 2: If yes, when was hypertension diagnosed

|  | No. of participants | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $<1$ year ago | 14 | 53.84 |
| 1-3 years ago | 4 | 15.38 |
| 3+ years ago | 8 | 30.76 |

## if yes, are you taking medications for hypertension ?



Fig 5: If yes, are you taking medications for hypertension?
Table 4: If Yes, Are You Taking Medications for Hypertension

|  | No. of participants | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| regularly | 16 | 61.54 |
| irregularly | 3 | 11.53 |
| no | 7 | 26.92 |

# does anyone else from your immediate family suffer from hypertension? 



Fig 6: Does anyone else from your immediate family suffer from hypertension?
Table 5: Does anyone else from your immediate family suffer from hypertension?

|  | No. of participants | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | 77 | 41.39 |
| No | 79 | 42.47 |
| Don't know | 30 | 16.13 |

Table 6: History of hypertension in either parent?

|  | No. of participants | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | 61 | 32.8 |
| No | 99 | 53.22 |
| Don't know | 26 | 13.98 |



Fig 7: History of hypertension in either parent?


Fig 8: Do you get your blood pressure checked regularly?
Table 7: Do you get your blood pressure checked regularly?

|  | No. of participants | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | 76 | 40.86 |
| No | 110 | 59.14 |



Fig 9: No. of participants (out of 76)

Table 8: If yes, where?

|  | No. of participants (out of 76) | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Doctor | 40 | 47.37 |
| Self-monitoring at home | 36 | 52.63 |



Fig 10: No. of participants (out of 186)
Table 9: Have you been diagnosed with any other disease?

|  | No. of participants (out of 186) | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | 20 | 10.75 |
| No | 166 | 89.25 |

20 participants have been diagnosed with various other disease such as diabetes mellitus, kidney stones, chest pain, asthma, ulcer, malaria, jaundice, anemia, typhoid, PCOS (among females) and heart attack.


Fig 11; Duration of physical activity per day

Table 10: Duration of physical activity per day

|  | No. of participants out of 186 | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $<30$ mins | 85 | 45.7 |
| 30min -1 hour | 64 | 34.41 |
| $1-2$ hours | 23 | 1236 |
| $>2$ hours | 14 | 7.53 |



Fig 12: Frequency of consumption of alcohol
Table 11: Frequency of consumption of alcohol

|  | no. of participants | $\%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Daily or nearly daily | 3 | 1.61 |
| Weekends | 3 | 1.61 |
| Occasionally | 32 | 17.2 |
| Never | 148 | 79.57 |



Fig 13: Frequency of use of tobacco products (In any forms)


Fig 14: Frequency of use of tobacco products (in any forms)
Table 12: Frequency of use of tobacco products (in any forms)

|  | No. of participants | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $>5$ times/day | 1 | 0.54 |
| $3-5$ times/day | 1 | 0.54 |
| $<3$ times/day | 5 | 2.69 |
| never | 179 | 96.23 |

Table 13: How frequently do you consume the following food items?

| Food items | Daily | 2-3 times a Week | About once a week | Never |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Green leafy vegetables | $43(23.12 \%)$ | $101(54.30 \%)$ | $41(22.04 \%)$ | $1(0.54 \%)$ |
| Packaged or ready to eat foods | $11(5.91 \%)$ | $71(38.17 \%)$ | $86(46.24 \%)$ | $18(9.68 \%)$ |
| Fruits | $39(20.97 \%)$ | $77(41.40 \%)$ | $63(33.87 \%)$ | $7(3.76 \%)$ |
| Whole milk dairy products | $94(50.54 \%)$ | $56(30.10 \%)$ | $34(18.28 \%)$ | $2(1.08 \%)$ |
| Eggs | $32(17.20 \%)$ | $71(38.17 \%)$ | $45(24.19 \%)$ | $38(20.43 \%)$ |
| Fish/ sea foods | $2(1.08 \%)$ | $49(26.34 \%)$ | $65(34.95 \%)$ | $70(37.63 \%)$ |
| Chicken | $9(4.84 \%)$ | $52(27.96 \%)$ | $76(40.86 \%)$ | $49(26.34 \%)$ |
| Red meat | $6(3.23 \%)$ | $26(13.98 \%)$ | $61(32.79 \%)$ | $93(50 \%)$ |
| Sweets or confectionery | $14(7.53 \%)$ | $67(36.02 \%)$ | $92(49.46 \%)$ | $13(6.99 \%)$ |
| Carbonated soft drinks and/or cola drinks | $6(3.23 \%)$ | $45(24.19 \%)$ | $80(43.01 \%)$ | $55(29.57 \%)$ |
| Sprinkle extra salt on foods while having meals/ snacks | $13(6.99 \%)$ | $41(22.04 \%)$ | $46(24.73 \%)$ | $86(46.24 \%)$ |



Fig 15: In your opinion is hypertension increasing in India?
Table 14: In your opinion, is hypertension increasing in India?

| Yes | 159 | $85.48 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No | 6 | $3.23 \%$ |
| Don't know | 21 | $11.29 \%$ |



Fig 16: In your opinion, is hypertension a preventable disease?

Fig 15: In your opinion, is hypertension a preventable disease?

|  | No. of participants | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | 161 | 86.56 |
| No | 9 | 4.84 |
| Don't know | 16 | 8.6 |

Table 16: Which of the following are symptoms of hypertension?

|  | Yes | No | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Headache | $147(79.03 \%)$ | $14(7.52 \%)$ | $25(13.44 \%)$ |
| Feeling breathless | $124(66.67 \%)$ | $26(13.98 \%)$ | $36(19.35 \%)$ |
| Bleeding from nose | $78(41.94 \%)$ | $53(28.49 \%)$ | $55(29.57 \%)$ |
| Flushing; ESP of face | $90(48.39 \%)$ | $36(19.35 \%)$ | $60(32.26 \%)$ |
| Dizziness | $142(76.34 \%)$ | $17(9.14 \%)$ | $27(14.52 \%)$ |
| Chest pain | $116(62.37 \%)$ | $32(17.20 \%)$ | $38(20.43 \%)$ |
| Palpitations (feels heart beats at rest) | $151(81.18 \%)$ | $16(8.60 \%)$ | $19(10.22 \%)$ |
| Blood in urine | $43(23.12 \%)$ | $73(39.25 \%)$ | $70(37.63 \%)$ |
| Blurry vision | $108(58.06 \%)$ | $31(16.67 \%)$ | $47(25.27 \%)$ |
| Mental stress | $151(81.18 \%)$ | $9(4.84 \%)$ | $26(13.98 \%)$ |

Fig 17: Which of the following are risk factors for hypertension?

| Risk factors | Yes | No | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Old age | $160(86.02 \%)$ | $12(6.45 \%)$ | $14(7.53 \%)$ |
| Overweight | $166(84.25 \%)$ | $6(3.22 \%)$ | $14(7.53 \%)$ |
| Sedentary lifestyle | $151(81.18 \%)$ | $8(4.30 \%)$ | $27(14.52 \%)$ |
| Use of tobacco in any form | $141(75.80 \%)$ | $16(8.60 \%)$ | $29(15.60 \%)$ |
| Alcohol consumption | $143(76.88 \%)$ | $15(8.06 \%)$ | $28(15.05 \%)$ |
| Mental stress | $169(90.86 \%)$ | $7(3.76 \%)$ | $10(5.38 \%)$ |
| High cholesterol | $160(86.02 \%)$ | $10(5.38 \%)$ | $16(8.60 \%)$ |
| Excessive salt intake | $158(84.95 \%)$ | $11(5.91 \%)$ | $17(9.14 \%)$ |

Fig 18: Which of the following are complications of uncontrolled hypertension?

| Complications | Yes | No | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Heart attack | $165(88.71 \%)$ | $7(3.76 \%)$ | $14(7.53 \%)$ |
| Stroke | $154(82.80 \%)$ | $14(7.53 \%)$ | $18(9.67 \%)$ |
| Enlargement of heart | $129(69.35 \%)$ | $17(9.14 \%)$ | $40(21.51 \%)$ |
| Kidney disease | $125(67.20 \%)$ | $22(11.83 \%)$ | $39(20.97 \%)$ |
| Metabolic syndrome | $112(60.21 \%)$ | $27(14.52 \%)$ | $47(25.27 \%)$ |
| Dementia | $88(47.31 \%)$ | $38(20.43 \%)$ | $60(32.26 \%)$ |
| Vision problems | $124(66.67 \%)$ | $23(12.36 \%)$ | $39(20.97 \%)$ |
| Peripheral artery disease | $140(75.25 \%)$ | $13(6.99 \%)$ | $33(17.74 \%)$ |
| Sexual dysfunction | $86(46.24 \%)$ | $34(18.27 \%)$ | $66(35.48 \%)$ |

Fig 18: Which of the following actions can prevent [or] reverse hypertension?

|  | Yes | No | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Reducing fat intake | $161(86.56 \%)$ | $7(3.76 \%)$ | $18(9.68 \%)$ |
| Reducing body weight | $157(84.41 \%)$ | $9(4.84 \%)$ | $20(10.75 \%)$ |
| Reducing salt intake | $161(86.56 \%)$ | $6(3.23 \%)$ | $19(10.22 \%)$ |
| Avoiding refined foods | $151(81.18 \%)$ | $13(6.99 \%)$ | $22(11.83 \%)$ |
| Stopping tobacco use in any form | $159(85.48 \%)$ | $5(2.69 \%)$ | $22(11.83 \%)$ |
| Stopping alcohol consumption | $162(87.10 \%)$ | $6(3.22 \%)$ | $18(9.68 \%)$ |
| Managing mental stress | $171(91.94 \%)$ | $3(1.61 \%)$ | $12(6.45 \%)$ |
| Consuming more fruits \& salads | $164(88.17 \%)$ | $8(4.30 \%)$ | $14(7.53 \%)$ |

Total number of participants were 186. Female $30.11 \%$ \& male $69.89 \%$. Among respondents $13.98 \%$ had hypertension. Among the respondents who diagnosed hypertension $61.54 \%$ were taking medication regularly, $11.53 \%$ were irregular \& $26.92 \%$ were not taking medications. $41.39 \%$ of their immediate family members suffering from hypertension in either parent. The prevalence of hypertension is significantly higher in those with a family history of hypertension. $40.86 \%$ of respondents checked blood pressure regularly. As per James P S \& others ${ }^{[8]}$ revealed that anti-hypertensive medication reduction can be achieved in some patients. Physical activity is important in the prevention of hypertension ${ }^{[9,10]}$. The respondents of the present study reported that duration of their physical activity per day was $45.7 \%<30 \mathrm{mins}, 34.41 \% 30 \mathrm{mins}-1$ hour, $12.36 \% 1-2 \mathrm{hrs} \&$ $7.53 \%>2 \mathrm{hrs}$. The participants reported that $1.61 \%$ consume alcohol daily, in weekends $1.61 \%$, occasionally $17.2 \%$ \& never $79.57 \%$. As per N M T Santan \& others ${ }^{[11]}$ the consumption of alcohol blood pressure increases especially among excessive drinkers. Among the respondents use of tobacco products $0.54 \%>5$ times/day, $0.54 \%$ 3-5 times/day,
$2.69 \%$ <3times/day \& never $96.23 \%$. As per S Edward \& other ${ }^{[12]}$ cessation of smoking, alcohol \& tobacco should be adopted. Y L \& others ${ }^{[13]}$ reported that healthy BMI \& sleep duration 6-8 hrs/day is associated with a lower risk of the occurrence of hypertension are bound to occur in those who are unaware of being hypertensive ${ }^{[14]}$. Among the respondents the awareness about the symptoms of hypertension was like headache $79.03 \%$, breathlessness $66.6 \%$, bleeding $76.34 \%$, chest pain $62.37 \%$, palpitations $81.18 \%$, blurry vision $58.06 \%$. Hafsa K \& other ${ }^{[15]}$ revealed in their study that their participants reported chest pain, vision problems, fatigue, vertigo, palpitation. The respondents of the present study reported that few actions can prevent/ reverse hypertension reducing fat intake $86.56 \%$ answered yes, reducing body weight $84.41 \%$, reducing salt intake $86.56 \%$, avoiding fried food $81.18 \%$, stopping tobacco $85.48 \%$, alcohol consumption $87.10 \%$, managing mental stress $91.94 \%$ and consuming more fruits \& salads $88.17 \%$. C M Brunoel-al ${ }^{[16]}$ reported that lifestyle changes can provide beneficial effects in hypertensive patients.

## Conclusion

Health \& healthcare providers should develop comprehensive guidelines \& strategies to allow the hypertensive patients to have access to the standard healthcare system \& be educated on hypertension \& its complications. Conducting education campaigns to promote for healthcare recipients \& caregivers to promote understanding of adherence \& importance of long term treatment. It is urgently necessary to promote knowledge, awareness, health literacy among people to prevent hypertension \& associated cardio vascular disease.

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