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# Prevalence of Hypertension among Doctors of BVH Bahawalpur

Dr. Aqsa Talat, Dr. Muhammad Jahanzeb, Dr. Narmeen Zahra

#### Abstract:

Hypertension has always been a subject worthy of our attention. Its prevalence among the normal population has normally acquired massive attention. The number of patients with hypertension has risen from about 118 million in 2000 to about 214 million in 2025. The study of hypertension among the doctors has never been able to gain significant Importance until now

#### Keywords

Hypertension, prevalence, doctors, BMI, exercise

**Objective.** To find out the prevalence of hypertension among the doctors of BVH Bahawalpur and find out any possible variation of risk factors when compared with general population.

Study Design. It was across sectional prospective study

**Setting.** Study was carried out in the month of May from doctors working in Bahawal Victoria Hospital of age group 35-65 years.

**Methods**. First of all consent was taken from each individual which was followed by recording of data as follows: age, gender, marital status, specialty, weight, height, BMI, family history, drug history, and any associated diseases.

**Duration**. The total duration of the study was 20 days.

**Study Population.** The study was conducted on doctors of Bahawal Victoria Hospital of age above 35 years.

**Sampling Technique**. It was simple random sampling.

**Sample Size.** A sample of 100 doctors was selected from Bahawal Victoria Hospital.

#### Results

Out of 100 doctors included in the research, 40 claimed to be hypertensive. Amongst other prominent results were that 50.8% of hypertensive had a positive family history of

hypertension, and that only 37.3% of males studied were hypertensive whereas 45.5 % of females studied turned out to be hypertensive.

### Conclusion

It was concluded that the prevalence of hypertension among the doctors is no different than the general population. Furthermore, the important risk factors include smoking, raised BMI and lack of exercise.

## Introduction

Hypertension is one of the diseases which has seen an exceptional rise in its incidence during the recent past. Hypertension is the increase in systolic blood pressure having a cut off value of about 140 mm Hg systolic and 90 mm Hg of diastolic. According to the estimates there were about 118 million patients suffering from hypertension which will increase to about 214 million in 2025. Such a massive rise is attributed to low socioeconomic status and a huge bulk of illiterate people whose numbers are enormous in subcontinent.

Hypertension remains asymptomatic for some time until a number of complications namely, coronary heart disease, stroke and renal failure develops. When the high blood pressure levels become chronic and the complications start to reveal, the ratio of mortalities rises up. Raised blood pressure is estimated to cause 7.5 million deaths, about 12.8% of all deaths. This accounts for 57 million disability adjusted life years (DALYS) or 3.7% of total DALYS.<sup>3</sup> Worse of all if we divert our attention to Pakistan, the 1990 to 1994 National Health Survey of Pakistan showed that about 70% to 85% of Pakistani hypertensive patients were unaware of their disease.<sup>4</sup>

There is no denying that there are so many people in Pakistan who are not aware of their condition. But this must not go without saying that even if the people are aware of the condition, they are not being provided with enough information on how to prevent this situation before it accelerates. Lack of this knowledge has led to this disease being common among the health professional themselves especially the doctors.

Since the undergraduate trainees in medical profession are considered to be the mainstay of the future citadel of

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medicine and surgery, a study was conducted to find out the prevalence of hypertension among the doctors. Aim was to look into the factors that led to disease being prevalent among the medical society so that it could be prevented from the grass root level.

## Literature Review

Hypertension is a state of great physiologic stress. It is designated as a mean systolic blood pressure greater than 140mmHg and mean diastolic pressure greater than 90mmHg. Study objectives are to quantify the prevalence of hypertension in doctors to identify factors that influence blood pressure.

From detailed study of researches, we have collected this information:

In year 2012, a study was conducted in an academic emergency counting hospitals from Romanian Public Health Network. Doctors from General Surgery, Gynecology, Orthopedics, Urology, ENT, Ophthalmology, and ICU participated in the study. Overall prevalence of Hypertension in study group was 30% in mean age group of 35 – 50 years. The prevalence of risk factors was found as family history (26.1%), BMI (85.5% of hypertension cases had BMI greater than or equal to 25 kg per meter square and 47.8% had BMI greater than or equal to 30kg per meter square), gender (63.7% females and 36.7% in males), age factor (24.4% among 35 - 44 years, 37.7% among 45 - 54 years, 30% among greater than 55 years), workability (61.1% excellent workability, 78.9% among mixed physical and mental demand, 44.4% among high level of emotional exhaustion). This research suggests that hypertension is associated with overweight, family history and gender.5

In year 2015, a study was conducted in Karnataka. It was conducted to find out prevalence of hypertension I doctors, above age 30. 162 doctors participated in research. It showed that prevalence of hypertension was 14.82% and 60.49% were pre-hypertensive. 48.15% of doctors showed greater than 25 kg per meter square BMI and 35.89% were smokers and 77.78% showed a positive family history of hypertension.<sup>2</sup>

In year 2012, a study was conducted to find prevalence of hypertension among doctors of Nigeria. 324 doctors participated. Age ranges from 35 – 60 years with mean age of 41.1 years. 20.1 percent were hypertensive. Most patients were of age 40 – 49 years. 56.5% of subjects were physically active, 25.6% of subjects had family history of hypertension. 0.6% of subjects had diabetes. 9.95 of subjects were obese. Male to female ratio of hypertension is 2:1. In this study, only subject who was daily smoker

was also hypertensive. So, the healthy lifestyle and physical activity protects against hypertension.<sup>6</sup>

In year 2010, a study was conducted among doctors in tertiary hospitals in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Doctors of Medicine, Surgery, Gynecology, and participated. Total number of subjects were 672. 66.6% females of mean age 36.2 plus minus 13.9 years. Prevalence of hypertension was 28%. Stress and lack of formal exercise were prevalent risk factors of hypertension present in 44.1% and 36.1% of patients respectively. Obesity was present in 19.4%. many participants were not aware of recently recommended target value of blood pressure, 22.3% were irregular in their follow up, 12.2% were not adherent to treatment, 8.3% smoked, BMI greater than or equal to 30 in 19.4%. Inactivity in 11.1%, diabetes 23%, stress at work 44%. No formal exercise in 36.1%. This research suggests that hypertension is associated with overweight, stress at work, physical inactivity and family history.7

In year 2014, a research was conducted among doctors at Taibah College of Medicine, Saudi Arabia. 50 subjects participated. Prevalence of hypertension was 26%. All participants were male. Unexpectedly, 18% were nonsmokers, 6% were ex-smokers, and only 1 was smoker. 77% had family history of hypertension. So this research shows overweight and family history are strong contenders of hypertension. 8

### **Objectives**

The objectives of this research were to determine the overall health conditions of Health care workers, particularly doctors of Bahawal Victoria Hospital, in regards to hypertension and the factors which influence the development of hypertension. This research would not only help understand the distribution of the disease but also give an outlook on how the disease establishes itself in people educated about it, i.e. doctors who extensively learn about hypertension.

Further correspondence of hypertension with specific factors were also studied. These included:

- Family History of the Disease
- BMI
- Smoking
- Working hours
- Gender
- Post-Graduate Speciality
- Age Group
- Marital Status

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Exercise

## Methodology

**Setting**. Study was carried out in the month of May from doctors working in Bahawal Victoria Hospital of age group 35-65 years.

**Duration.** The total duration of the study was 20 days. 5 days were utilized in data collection and the rest of them were used for writing the whole extract, which included the tasks like introduction writing, abstract, analysis etc.

**Study Prep**. The study instrument was structured, self- administrative questionnaire consisting of multiple choice questions encompassing major aspects of hypertension. The questionnaire was prepared by the students and was discussed with the supervisor. Finally, it was printed along with consent forms.

**Study Design**. This was cross sectional analytical study which utilized qualitative research methods by use of a detailed questionnaire to collect data about prevalence of hypertension among doctors from 35-65 years. The study population consisted of the doctors working in Bahawal Victoria hospital.

**Sample Size.** Sample unit was Bahawalpur Victoria Hospital. A sample of 100 doctors was selected from Bahawal Victoria Hospital. The selection of 100 sample size was to ensure that the results of the research are accurate enough to be applicable on the whole community.

**Sampling Technique.** We used probability method and the type was simple random sampling. The questionnaire were in doctors ensuring anonymity of the doctors and taking an informed consent. They were asked to fill the questionnaires for which ample time was provided. The filled sheets were then collected and analyzed. Incompletely filled questionnaires were discarded.

#### **Inclusion Criteria**:

- The doctors should be between 35-65 years of age.
- There was no differentiation of sex in the study i.e. both male and female doctors were included in the study.
- Only the doctors working in the Bahawal Victoria Hospital were included in the study.

#### **Exclusion Criteria:**

- The doctors who refused to participate in the study.
- The doctors who were not falling in the specified age group, that is, 35-65 years of age.
- The doctors who were not working in the Bahawal Victoria Hospital were also excluded.

## **Data Collection**

An informed consent was sought before handing over the questionnaires. Data was collected using detailed, structured questionnaire. Questionnaire was pre-tested before administering to the respondents in order to improve the validity of results. Following data was collected using questionnaire: age group, gender, marital status, specialty, BMI, known hypertensive or not, duration of illness if hypertensive, job hours, nature of job, sleep hours, exercise and its type, type and the number of meals, smoking status, drugs used and family history of hypertension.

### **Results**

The aim of this research was to compare the prevalence of hypertension in doctors of BVH in correlation with various factors that are known\thought to influence the incidence of the disease. In order to achieve this aim data from a total of 100 respondents was collected and analyzed, with the following results:

- Out of the 100 respondents, 65 were in the age group of 35 45 years, 23 were in the age group of 45 55 years, and only 12 were above 55 years of age.
- 67 of the total respondents were male whereas 33 were females.
- Majority of the respondents identified themselves as belonging to the sub-specialty of Medicine (40 individuals), whereas 29 individuals each from surgery and academic participated in this research. Only 2 individuals from the administrative services participated in this research.
- One of the most important factors under consideration in this study was the BMI of the respondents. Out of 100, about 49 were identified as overweight (further classification not included for simplification purposes) and 51 were normal. There was no reported case of an underweight respondent.
- 40 people identified themselves as a known hypertensive case whereas 60 people were negative for hypertension.
- Of those who were afflicted with hypertension, 23 people had the disease for less than 5 years (about 57.5 percent of the respondents who were known hypertensive), whereas 10 had the disease from 5 10 years (about 25



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percent) and only 7 had the disease for more than 10 years (constituting only 17.5 percent of individuals who had hypertension).

- All the 100 respondents had a Government job (part of the requirement of the research) and out of the 100 respondents, 34 reported to be working extra hours at a private institute whereas 66 answered in a negative when asked if they had any other jobs apart from their private job.
- Average number of sleep hours each night were also asked from the respondents, with almost 67 percent responded with a sleep duration of 6-8 hours whereas 30 percent had a sleep duration of less than 6 hours and only 3 percent were heavy sleepers with more than 8 hours of sleep each night.
- Exercise is thought to play a key role in association with the onset\severity of hypertension and this variable was studied in depth in this research. Out of 100 respondents, 52 reported that they exercise to some extent at least once a week whereas 48 respondents answered that they did not exercise even once a week. Amongst the people who did exercise, 37 respondents reported only doing light exercise (71.2 percent), whereas 14 respondents (26.9 percent) reported to be doing moderate exercise and only 1 respondent (1.9 percent of those who exercised) reported to be exercising heavily during the week.
- Similarly, smoking has also been associated as a positive causative factor for hypertension and so was studied during the course of this research. Out of 100 respondents, 19 were current\past smokers whereas 81 were absolute nonsmokers.
- 63 percent of respondents also reported to have a positive family history of hypertension whereas 37 percent did not have any known family history of the disease.

The preliminary objective which we set out with was to establish the incidence of hypertension in males vs.

females. Table 13, figure 13 and figure 14 clearly suggests that female doctors of BVH have a much higher chance of developing hypertension (about 45.5 percent of the female doctors were hypertension positive) than males (of which only 37.3 percent were hypertension positive). Females, hence, are 1.22 times more likely to be hypertensive.

We also compared the incidence of hypertension in doctors belonging to essentially different sub specialties. The results suggested that the lowers occurrence of hypertension was in doctors who practiced medicine (30%), followed by surgery professionals who had a rate of 37.9%. Our research also revealed that 55.2% of doctors who belonged to the academic sub specialty were known hypertensive, this being much higher than medicine or surgery, and hence it can be inferred that the stress faced by these doctors is more than their surgical or medical counterparts. Since only 2 participants belonged to the administrative sub specialty, we did not include their data in our research as it would be inadequate. This is shown in figure 16 and figure 15.

Data the various researches conducted over the past decade, some of which we have reviewed in our literature review, is highly suggestive that people who have at least one parent suffering from hypertension are significantly more likely to suffer from the same disease later on in their life i.e. people are genetically predisposed to the disease, and our data is also quite supportive of this. A staggering 50.8% of individuals who had a family history of hypertension were also hypertensive. Comparatively, only 21.6 % of people without a family history of hypertension actually had developed the disease.

Hence those with a positive family history are 2.35 times more likely to have the disease than those who do not have a positive family history. This data is shown in table 14, figure 17 and figure 18.



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Once again our research has supported the already established notion that hypertension is much more likely to develop in overweight individuals than in people with a normal body weight. We counted anybody who has a BMI of 25 or above as being overweight and the results show that about 51.0 % of overweight individuals were also hypertensive. In contrast, there were only 29.4% of people who had a normal body weight and also had developed hypertension. Overweight, hence, were 1.73 times more likely to develop hypertension in comparison with normal weighted individuals. This is shown in table 15, figure 19 and figure 20.

exercise with a decreased incidence of hypertension, our
research does not significantly comply with this
assumption. There is not much difference in the incidence
of hypertension in individuals who did exercise at least
once a week (36.5% of these were hypertensive) and those
that did not (43.8% of these were hypertensive). It is
important to note though that our research did point out an
increased incidence of 1.2 times of hypertension in
sedentary individuals versus individuals who exercised at
least once a week, but we are unsure as to whether this is a
plausible conclusion or not. This is shown in table 17,
figure 22 and figure 23.

Respondents who were past\current smokers had an incidence of hypertension of 47.4 percent whereas those who were nonsmokers only had an incidence of 38.3 percent. Hence our data does suggest though that if a respondent has been a past smoker or is a current smoker, than he is 1.24 times more likely to be hypertensive. This is shown in table 18, figure 24 and figure 25.

### **Data Analysis**

The data was encoded and entered into SPSS version 21. Frequencies were run and percentages were calculated. The results were presented in the form of frequency tables. The interpretations were summarized in form of bar charts and pie charts for an easy comprehension of statistical data.

Table 2: Gender

Table 1: Age Group

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	35-45 years	65	65.0	65.0
	45-55 years	23	23.0	23.0
Valid	55 and above	12	12.0	12.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	Male	67	67.0	67.0
Valid	Female	33	33.0	33.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0

**Table 3: Specialty** 

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	Surgery	29	29.0	29.0
	Medicine	40	40.0	40.0
Valid	Administration	2	2.0	2.0
	Academic	29	29.0	29.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0

Table 4: BMI

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	overweight	49	49.0	49.0
Valid	normal	51	51.0	51.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0

**Table 5: Number and Frequency of Hypertensive:** 

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	Yes	40	40.0	40.0
Valid	No	60	60.0	60.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0



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**Table 6: Duration of illness** 

		Frequency		Valid Percent
	Less than 5 years	23	23.0	57.5
Valid	5-10 years	10	10.0	25.0
v una	10-15 years	7	7.0	17.5
	Total	40	40.0	100.0
Missing	System	60	60.0	
Total		100	100.0	

Table 7: Doctors only having a Government Job

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	yes	66	66.0	66.0
Valid	no	34	34.0	34.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0

**Table 8: Average Sleep hours** 

		Frequency		Valid Percent
	less than 6 hours	30	30.0	30.0
	6 to 8 hours	67	67.0	67.0
Valid	more than 8 hours	3	3.0	3.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0

Table 9: Doctors Who Exercise At Least Once A Week

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	yes	52	52.0	52.0
Valid	no	48	48.0	48.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0

**Table 10: Type Of Exercise** 

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	light	37	37.0	71.2
x 7 1' 1	moderate	14	14.0	26.9
Valid	heavy	1	1.0	1.9
	Total	52	52.0	100.0
Missing System		48	48.0	
Total		100	100.0	

Table 11: Current Smoker\Past Smoker

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	yes	19	19.0	19.0
Valid	no	81	81.0	81.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0

**Table 12: Family History of Hypertension** 

•		Frequency			Cumulative Percent
	Yes	63	63.0	63.0	63.0
Valid	No	37	37.0	37.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Table 13: Frequency of Hypertensive in Males and Females

		Gende	r				
		Male			Female		
			Column %	N		Column %	N
TI	Yes	25	37.3%		15	45.5%	
Hypertensive	No	42	62.7%		18	54.5%	

<u>Table 14: Correlation of Hypertension with Family History of the Disease</u>

		Family	History of	Hyperte	nsion		
		Yes			No		
			Column 1 %	N Count	Column N %		
Hypertensive	Yes	32	50.8%	8	21.6%		
	No	31	49.2%	29	78.4%		



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**Table 15: Correlation of BMI and Hypertension** 

		BMI							
		under	weight	overw	eight	normal			
			Colum n N %		Colum n N %		Colum n N %		
Hypertensi ve	Ye s	0	0.0%	25	51.0%	15	29.4%		
	No	0	0.0%	24	49.0%	36	70.6%		

<u>Table 16: Correlation of Hypertension with Average Sleep hours</u>

		Sleep							
	less	than 6	6 to 8	hours	more	than 8			
	hours				hours				
		Colum n N %		Colum n N %		Colum n N %			
Hypertensi	Ye s	14	46.7%	25	37.3%	1	33.3%		
ve	No	16	53.3%	42	62.7%	2	66.7%		

**Table 17: Correlation of Hypertension with Exercise** 

		Exercise atleast onc				e a week			
		yes			no				
		Count	Column	N	Count	Column	N		
			<b>%</b>			%			
I I	Yes	19	36.5%		21	43.8%			
Hypertensive	No	33	63.5%		27	56.2%			

**Table 18: Correlation of Hypertension with Smoking** 

	Past\Current Smoker							
		yes			No			
		Count	Column	N	Count	Column	N	
		%			%			
Hypertensive No		9	47.4%		31	38.3%		
		10	52.6%		50	61.7%		

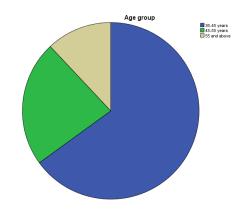


Figure 1: Distribution of hypertension according to age group

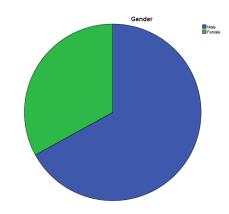


Figure 2: How the prevalence varied in males and females

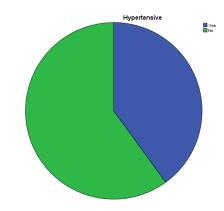


Figure 3: Differences in occurrence of hypertension among doctors of different specialties



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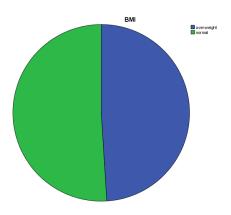


Figure 4: A graph depicting the effect of BMI upon hypertension

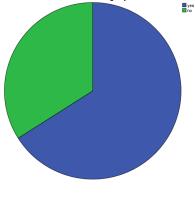


Figure 7: How the hypertension had spread among the doctors who only did a government job

govt job

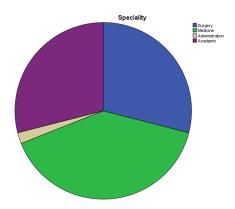


Figure 5: A graph showing how many doctors from our sample had hypertension

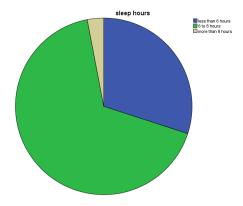


Figure 8: The effect of different sleep hours upon the prevalence of hypertension

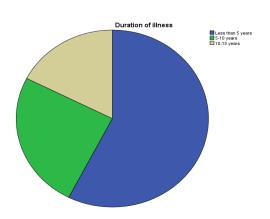


Figure 6: This shows the number of doctors sorted according to their duration of illness

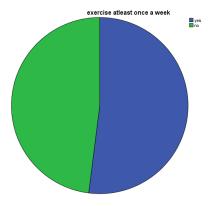


Figure 9: Effect of exercising at least once a week upon the hypertensive doctors of Bahawal Victoria Hospital



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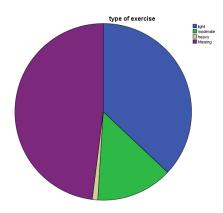


Figure 10: How the type of exercise can affect the spread of hypertension among doctors.

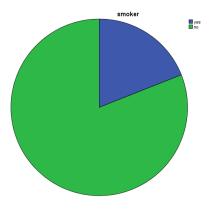


Figure 11: Effect of smoking upon the hypertension among doctors of Bahawal Victoria Hospital

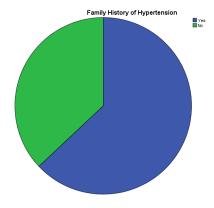


Figure 12: Relationship of family history with the hypertensive doctors.

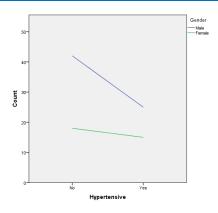


Figure 13: This line chart shows the distribution of hypertension among the male and female doctors of Bahawal Victoria Hospital

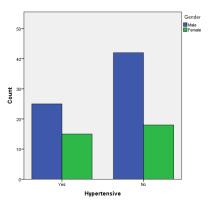


Figure 14: This bar chart shows the distribution of hypertension among the male and female doctors of Bahawal Victoria Hospital

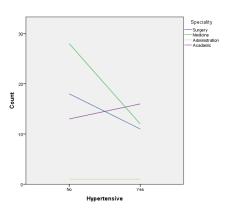


Figure 15: A line chart shows the relation of different medical specialties upon the prevalence of hypertension



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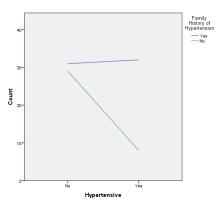


Figure 16: A bar chart shows the relation of different medical specialties upon the prevalence of hypertension

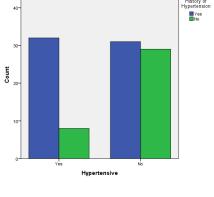


Figure 19: How BMI has effected the hypertensive doctors of Bahwal Victoria Hospital using a line chart

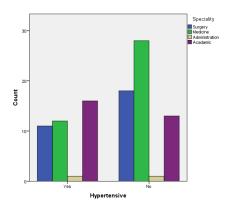


Figure 17:A line chart showing the effect of family history upon its prevalence among the doctors of Bahawal Vitoria Hospital

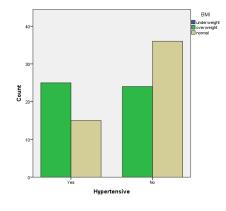


Figure 20: How BMI has effected the hypertensive doctors of Bahwal Victoria Hospital using a bar chart

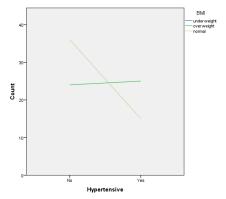


Figure 18: The influence of family history of hypertension upon its prevalence represented by a bar chart

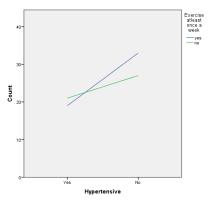


Figure 21: How sleep hours effect the hypertension



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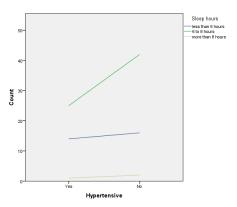


Figure 22:Effect of exercise once a week upon prevalence of hypertension among doctors of Bhawal Victoria Hospital

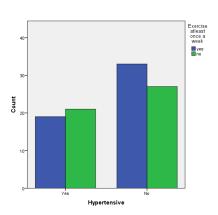


Figure 23: An effect of exercise once a week on hypertensive doctors shown using a bar chart

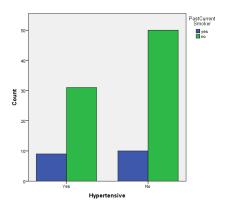


Figure 24: A bar chart representing prevalence of hypertension among doctors who smoke

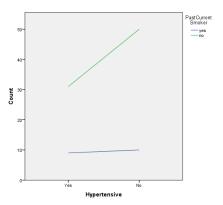


Figure 25: A line chart representing those hypertensive who were smokers

## Discussion

This research was conducted to observe the prevalence of hypertension among the doctors of Bahawal Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur. There were several risk factors brought under consideration to see how effective they were in bringing variation. Our sample consisted of a hundred doctors belonging to different specialties, having different lifestyles.

In this study we found out that in our sample about 40% had hypertension, while on the other hand in a study conducted at khatmandu medical college, the prevelance of hypertension in a medical college of odisha was 67%. In another college in Utar pardesh the prevalence was 21.33%. in a study conducted USA, the prevalence was 26.8% during the time 1999 to 2004.

In our present knowledge males were dominant and so the females were less in number, whereas in a study conducted by the medical students of khatmandu medical college they also had a male dominant sample. From our male dominant sample about 25% males were hypertensive but 28% females had hypertension. So in a male majority sample, greater females were hypertensive but in a research done in United States there were greater number of males having hypertension instead of female. So an absolute contrast was observed.

From among the various risk factors that were under consideration, BMI was of vital importance because it has quite a direct relation with our illness under study. In our study 51% of people who had BMI greater than 25 i.e. overweight while in study conducted in United States had 15% prevalence of hypertension among overweight individuals.<sup>12</sup>

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Another risk factor was studied and it was found that the incidence of hypertension among smokers was 47.4% whereas in non-smokers it was 38.3% and when it was compared to a research done in Canada, the results were opposites i.e. they had lesser prevalence of hypertension among the smokers than the non-smokers.<sup>14</sup>

One of the important factors, which comes into our mind when we discuss hypertension, is exercise or physical activity. One of the research, conducted in 1984 about the effects of exercise upon the incidence of hypertension depicted lesser incidence of hypertension among individuals who were into physical activity. Whereas our research did not show any significant variation in incidence among the exercising and non-exercising hypertensive patients.

According to research published in American journal of hypertension, people having sedentary lifestyle were more inclined towards hypertension.<sup>14</sup> But unfortunately, our research was not able to define any possible correlation of leisurely lifestyle with the development of hypertension.

In the very end, we can conclude that the incidence of hypertension is exclusively affected by age, gender, BMI, exercise, smoking etc. This notion of ours has also been reinforced by many other researches on these topics as described earlier.

### Conclusion

By our studies it is concluded that overall community awareness about disease duration, complication and preventive Measures of Hypertension is satisfactory. Well educated hypertensive patients have good knowledge about disease regular checkup, complications and preventive measures (for Example; regular walk) than less or uneducated patients. Males have good knowledge than females, but knowledge about diet schedule, medication and timing of test was not satisfactory. Therefore, appropriate education about dietary control, life style, regular checkups and use of medicines should be given to control the disease.

#### Recommendations

First of all, the proper education and counselling about the hypertension must be done. People should be told what kind of lifestyle modifications should they bring about to reduce the prevalence of this disease.

People should try to work out on daily basis to keep the BMI in check. Obesity has to be eradicated.

Society has to act by reducing the smoking to a minimum. Sedentary lifestyle has to be discouraged.

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