

STUDY OF THE DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE THAT THE CARDIOLOGISTS IN THE CITY OF SÃO PAULO BRAZIL HAVE ABOUT AN ENTITY WITH LOW PREVALENCE ASSOCIATED TO SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH: BRUGADA SYNDROME 2008

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Background: Patients with Brugada syndrome (BrS) are susceptible to ventricular fibrillation and sudden cardiac death (SCD). The clinical diagnosis is not possible if the cardiologist doesn't know the classical ECG patterns largely based on the 12-lead ECG changes. However, the BrS ECG pattern is often mis-identified because responsible don't have the minimal information about these ECG patterns.

Objective: Assess the degree of knowledge that cardiologists from the city of São Paulo, Brazil, have regarding a low-prevalent entity, associated to high rate of sudden death: Brugada syndrome.

Methods: 244 cardiologists were interviewed: 61.1% were males, the average age being 44.32 ± 10.83 years old, who underwent an instrument divided into two: in the first part, we recorded gender, age and data related to academic/professional profile. The second -answered only by the professionals that manifested having heard of the syndrome - evaluated the knowledge on the entity, without a chance to consult. We used uni and multivariate analysis on the mean percentage of hits and misses and the influence of the academic/professional profile on their performance.

Results: The percentage of hits was 45.7% a 98.8% of the interviewed professionals manifested having some knowledge on the entity. Those we made or are making a residency in cardiology were right a 30% more than those without residency ($p < 0.001$). Those with a post-degree were right in average a 20% more than those without a post-degree ($p < 0.001$). Those with a specialist degree were right in average a 13% more than those without the degree ($p = 0.04$). When the physicians had a link to the teaching institution, the average percentage of hits was 14% greater ($p < 0.001$) and if linked to the Brazilian Society of Cardiac Arrhythmias (SOBRAC), the average increase of hits was 10% ($p = 0.004$).

Conclusion: The residency in cardiology was the factor of greater significance in the percentage of hits. Other significant factors, however less important, were the link of the interviewed person to the teaching institution, the SOBRAC, and having a specialist degree.

