

# KNOWLEDGE LEVELS ABOUT CRIMEAN-CONGO HEMORRHAGIC FEVER AMONG MIDWIFERY AND NURSING STUDENTS IN KAHRAMANMARAS, TURKEY

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**Abstract.** The aim of this study was to determine the knowledge levels of students in the Midwifery and Nursing Departments of the School of Health Sciences in Kahramanmaras Sutcuimam University (KSU) about Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) and to examine the factors influencing those knowledge levels. The study was conducted between April-June 2009 in the School of Health Sciences, KSU, Turkey. All the midwifery and nursing students in the School of Health Sciences at that time, 296 individuals, were included in the study. Questionnaire forms, developed from literature data and comprised of 66 questions, were given to the students, and they were asked to fill them out. Twenty-four point seven percent of the students were not available, thus 223 students(75.3%) were included in the study. Seventy-five point three percent of students stated a viruse was the cause for CCHF, 78.9% stated CCHF is seen between April and September in Turkey, and 80.7% stated there was no vaccine avaiable against it. Ninety-three point three percent of the study group stated that CCHF was transmitted by tick bite, 75.8% and 53.4% stated CCHF can be transmitted by exposure to blood of an infected animal or direct contact with an acutely infected animal, respectively. Thirty-three point two percent of students stated CCHF had no specific treatment. The mean knowledge score of students regarding CCHF was  $54.6 \pm 14.8$ . The CCHF scores of the nursing students were significantly higher than those of the midwifery students. The CCHF knowledge scores did not vary by age or college year.

**Key words:** Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, nursing and midwifery students, knowledge level, Turkey

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