

**THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF PERSONS
WITH DIABETES WITH REGARDS TO PREVENTING
AMPUTATION**

A Project Report

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Stephanie Ming

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Department of Community Health and Psychiatry

Faculty of Medical Sciences

The University of the West Indies

Mona Campus

ABSTRACT

THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF PERSONS WITH DIABETES WITH REGARDS TO PREVENTING AMPUTATION

STEPHANIE B.-J. MING

Aim: The aim of this study was to determine the knowledge, and practice of persons with diabetes, with regards to the disease, treatment regimes, complications and the prevention of amputation.

Method: A total of one hundred and fifty (150) persons were conveniently selected from the diabetic, medical and surgical clinics at the two major hospitals in Kingston, Jamaica. Fourteen (14) patients were selected from a clinic in Mona, Kingston to participate in two focus group discussions. The data for this cross-sectional study were collected during the period March to April 2006 and were analyzed using SPSS version 12 and the Thematic Approach.

Results: Knowledge levels about diabetes and its complications were high, however compliance with medication, dietary guidelines and exercise programmes among participants was 50%, 40%, and 30% respectively. Amputees were found to be more knowledgeable about the symptoms of diabetes especially those regarding the feet. Though the prevalence of amputation was higher among the males there were no significant differences between gender or amputation status and knowledge and practices.

Practices were not in accordance with the high knowledge levels regarding the prevention of amputation.

Conclusion: The fact that the respondents were knowledgeable of diabetes and the prevention of amputation suggest that information is being disseminated. However a gap exists between knowledge and practice which is crucial to the prevention of amputation. The need for a holistic approach in the management of diabetes has been highlighted by this study.