

THE RELATION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS TO THE PROBLEM OF HIV/AIDS  
Pidubna A.I – Sumy State University, postgraduate student  
Marchenko D.O. - E.L. Adviser

HIV infection/AIDS - is a global problem of mankind. Therefore it's correct to speak about the importance of HIV infection in the medical practice of any speciality.

The aim of the study is to assess the awareness of foreign English-speaking medical students about HIV/AIDS, as well as an analysis of the degree of tolerance for future medical staff towards HIV-infected individuals.

To solve these tasks a questionnaire of 29 items was developed, each of which contained from 3 to 6 answer variants. The questions dealt with the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV infection.

54 foreign students with the age range from 21 years to 31 years were questioned, among whom there were 36 males (66,7 %) and 18 females (33,3 %). The students were from Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, India, Zambia, Syria, Egypt, Cameroon, Malaysia, Sudan and Rwanda. More than 50 % of the respondents gave the correct answers to general questions. Incorrect responses regard to the question of contact with potentially hazardous biological materials. They were recorded in 9 students (16,7 %). It was noted that 5 (9,3 %) respondents indicated the need for isolation of HIV-positive individuals in the society, which suggests the presence of discrimination towards people living with HIV among future health professionals.

Foreign medical students are knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS. It is necessary to strengthen the control of students' knowledge concerning the actions of medical personnel in emergency situations, to focus more on bioethics itself, including the inadmissibility of stigma and discrimination against HIV-infected individuals in the society.