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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59588

Title: Needlestick Injury Incidence, Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Among Healthcare Workers in National Guard Primary Health Care.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....
Accept after minor revision.....
✓ Accept after major revision .....
Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strength of the study:

- Addresses an important occupational safety issue among healthcare workers.
- Includes participants from six primary healthcare centres.
- Uses a structured questionnaire and stratified cluster sampling.
- Reports needlestick injury frequency and circumstances.
- Examines knowledge, attitudes and preventive practices.
- Includes statistical comparisons between injured and non-injured participants.
- Obtains institutional ethical approval and informed consent.
- Provides practical recommendations for training and injury reporting.

Weakness of the study:

- The final sample is smaller than the calculated sample size.
- The cross-sectional design limits causal interpretation.
- Self-reported injuries may be affected by recall bias.
- The study covers only one healthcare network and region.
- Some knowledge findings require clearer interpretation.
- The period used to measure injury incidence needs clarification.
- The reasons for incomplete post-exposure care are not explored.
- Grammar, spacing and table presentation require improvement.

Reviewers Comments:

The manuscript addresses an important occupational health concern and provides useful information on needlestick injuries among healthcare workers in Saudi primary care centres. Institutional ethical approval and electronic informed consent are reported, which is appropriate. However, the authors should clarify the period covered by the reported injury incidence and explain why the final sample of 156 participants was below the calculated minimum of 169. The questionnaire findings need careful interpretation, particularly the low awareness of hepatitis C prevention and the differences between reported knowledge and actual practices. The authors should also explain the reasons for incomplete injury reporting, testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, if these data are available. The study is limited by its cross-sectional design, self-reported information and restricted setting, which may affect generalisability. The manuscript is understandable overall, but grammatical errors, irregular spacing and inconsistent table formatting need correction. The reported statistical findings and references should be checked carefully. Overall, the study is relevant and potentially useful, but methodological and reporting issues require attention before publication.

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Previously Published anywhere/Plagiarism check:
A web search identified closely related published studies on needlestick injuries and healthcare workers' knowledge and practices in Saudi Arabia, including a 2022 study in Abha. These similarities reflect an established research topic and do not by themselves demonstrate plagiarism. The authors should clearly state how this study differs from earlier work, verify all citations and complete a formal similarity check before publication.