

Abstract

The main aim of this study is to assess the real situation of hazardous medical waste management in medical laboratories in the governorates of Nablus, Ramallah and Al Bireh. The sample under investigation was 100 laboratories where interviews were conducted with one of staff in each of them.

The study results showed that most laboratories produce infectious and hazardous waste and found that 85% of laboratories producing quantities of these hazardous materials which is dangerous for community and the environment, also 57% of these laboratories get rid of these hazardous wastes with all laboratory wastes, the results also showed that 59% of these laboratories get rid of all these waste in public container or with domestic public containers and this situation will affect public health and environment especially that 24% of the laboratories sometimes don't do any kind of disinfection for these wastes, and 17 % of laboratories don't do any sterilization process for the wastes before disposal to public containers in or landfills also this behavior shows danger which would be formed on the environment and society

The study results showed that 50% of the laboratories do not perform a proper segregation of waste according to international laws and procedures established by the World Health Organization ¹ so this behavior will lead to increase the amount of medical waste generated as a mixes with household wastes. As well as the results showed that the process of waste transport and handling are done by people who do not have any experience or knowledge of the seriousness of this waste has emerged in the study that 64% of those who deals with medical waste are not specialized and it was found that 71% of those who carry out these wastes have been subjected sometimes to the dangers of this waste such as Acupuncture or infectious because workers perform this process without the expertise necessary to do so

The study included also another aspect which is to identify the components of waste generates from laboratories and production rate, and found that each sample produces 86 grams of hazardous waste and non-hazardous, as well as appeared in the study, all test results in 38 g of medical waste, and this helps in calculating the amount of waste produced of all laboratories based on the number of samples or tests conducted. It was noted there is a difference between the quantity produced from samples or tests; and this because that many tests can be made for one sample in laboratory

The researcher recommended in this study to find a system consists of onsite separation collection and disposal of medical waste laboratory separately from domestic wastes because of the serious risk to the environment and community if these medical hazard wastes lifted without proper management so it will be a source of e diseases and infectious due to its dangerous if it stays on its current state, without complete system of separation collection, transport and final disposal ensure safety of environment and society from any danger now and in future