

Knowledge, perspectives and ethical considerations regarding the use and application of stem cells

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Objective

To assess a sample of the Greek population on the knowledge, perspectives and ethical considerations towards the use and application of stem cells and the associated donation process in line with their socio-demographic characteristics.

Methods

A cross-sectional study was organized between July and November 2018 among a convenience sample of 222 individuals. For the purposes of this study a questionnaire was developed which included questions regarding participants' demographic characteristics, knowledge, views and perspectives on the collection process, use and storage of stem cells. All questions were closed ended and data were collected through an interview process.

Results

Data were entered in a database and analysed with the use of the SPSS program. The overall knowledge of participants regarding stem cell origin, collection, preservation procedure and isolation process was found to be moderate (percentages varied between 38% to 45%). The majority of participants reported the lack of information provided from health professionals as the main reason of their lack of knowledge. Higher educational level was associated with better knowledge of stem cells sampling method and use and was also found to positively impact participants' attitudes towards the importance and applications of stem cells in clinical practice.

Conclusion

Health care professionals should organize public awareness campaigns with the aim to better inform general population about the use, collection process, and applications of stem cells in practice.