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Under The Patronage of his Excellency Dr Yousef Goussous

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Prevalence of left-right confusion among medical students in Mutah University, Al-Karak, Jordan

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Abstract

Background: The ability to distinguish left from right has been shown to vary substantially within healthy individuals, yet its characteristics and mechanisms are poorly understood.

Objective: The study was designed to spot the extent of left-right confusion (LRC) among medical students at Mutah university and to investigate the relationship between LRC and multiple health and socioeconomic variables.

Method: In this cross-sectional study, a Google form questionnaire was designed and distributed among a convenience sample of medical students from 1st year to 6th year.

The collected data were statistically analyzed using SPSS version 25

Results: Prevalence of LRC was found to be 9.6% among participants (12.6% of females, and 5.8%) males, p-value = 0.004), of these participants, 21.3% reported needing less than 2 seconds to distinguish, 67.2% reported needing 2-4 seconds, and 11.5% reported needing more than 4 seconds to distinguish.

As for the relationship between LRC and the dominant hand (86.6% of participants are right-handed, 9.6% are left-handed, and 3.8% are ambidextrous), 8.9% of right-handed participants have LRC while 16.4% of left-handed have LRC (p-value= 0.165).

ADHD persons among participants proved to be 1.7% (11 cases, 45% of them have LRC, p-value < 0.001).

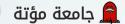
27.9% of participants who have LRC were academically affected by having LRC, especially with regard to anatomy and radiology courses.

Conclusion: In conclusion, LRC proved to be present among our sample in similar prevalence to previous literature worldwide at 14.7%, the data suggests that LRC is associated with gender and ADHD. Further investigation about the correlation between LRC and other variables (i.e., diseases, diet, smoking, exercise) needs to be done.

Keywords: left-right confusion, Al-Karak, prevalence, Mut'ah University, Medical student, Gender, ADHD

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Biography

I am a third-year medical student at Mutah University, Jordan, and this paper marks my first experience in conducting a study. Nevertheless, the field of academics and research has been my passion for years, as I find great joy in investigating concepts and seeing them through the lens of research. I have Two- years of experience teaching medical lectures online and more than 6 years of experience as a presenter of various events, as well as 3 years of experience as an editor for magazines in university and high school. Academically, I ranked 3rd place in Jordan for Best across 7 Cambridge IGCSE qualifications in 2017, and had the highest GPA in the faculty of Medicine at Mutah University in 2019/2020. In the future, I hope on expanding my academic horizons by conducting research that positively impacts the world, and I wish to help more students throughout their journey by teaching.