Assessment of Research Ethics Training Workshop among a Sample of Sudanese Investigators.
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INTRODUCTION
- International principles and guidelines that govern conduct of research are well established and implemented in the developed world. However, there is a general concern about the ethics of clinical research in developing countries.
- In Sudan there is increasing awareness about the importance of health professionals conducting studies involving humans. Abiding to research ethical principals and guidelines by Sudanese researchers could enhance the protection of these human subjects.
- However, there is no formal training in research ethics for investigators and members of research ethical committees.

AIM
- To acquaint investigators with the basic knowledge of ethical principles that allows them to value the importance of protecting human subjects involved in clinical research.
- To assess the effectiveness of research ethics training to investigators.

RATIONALE
Enhancing the knowledge of investigators in the research community on research ethics will harbour an environment of ethics among the trainees, which in turn can lead to an improvement in the conduct of research involving human subjects.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
- All research procedures were reviewed by the University of Khartoum Medical Campus Research Ethical Committee.
- 3 - two day workshops in research ethics with 59 participants.
- Contents of the workshop materials were adapted from the MERETI program and consisted of:
  - formal lecture sessions
  - interactive large group teaching
  - small group discussions
  - study protocols
- A voluntary pre and post test was administered to participants in order to assess knowledge gained from the workshop.
- The tests were anonymous, participants were asked to create a three digit code to match the pre and post test scores.
- The knowledge assessment form consisted of 34 best answer questions and covered areas of informed consent, level of risk, conflict of interest, REC guidelines etc.
- Three cases were also included in the pre-test and post test to examine level of reasoning and apprehension.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
Pre and post test scores were compared using a paired-samples t tests and nonparametric test at α = 0.05

CONCLUSIONS
The workshop enhanced the knowledge of participants about basic principles of research ethics and the role of a research ethics committee.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS
Further assessments are needed to test the retainment of their knowledge and its effect on conduct of research.