

**Table 2 Mean scores for each item of knowledge about hepatitis B virus (HBV) among Tehran dentists ( $n = 300$ ), and correlations with attitude items and behaviour**

#	Knowledge items	Max. score	Mean (SD) score	Significant correlations <sup>a</sup>	
				Attitude items	Behaviour
K1	Which types of viral hepatitis are mostly spread in dentistry? Which is the most common?	3	2.19 (1.33)	A7	-
K2	Which HBV transmission route is the most effective?	3	1.03 (1.43)	A3, A5, A7	-
K3	How many viruses are required for HBV disease transmission? What is the seroconversion rate?	3	0.18 (0.41)	-	-
K4	How long is the latent phase of HBV?	3	0.45 (0.84)	-	-
K5	What proportion of patients are carriers?	3	0.54 (1.15)	A1	-
K6	What are malignant changes in HBV-positive patients?	3	1.02 (1.01)	-	-
K7	Should dentists consider all patients as carriers of blood-borne infectious diseases?	3	2.62 (1.00)	A3	-
K8	What are the signs of an HBV carrier in a blood test?	3	0.82 (1.34)	-	-
K9	Is hepatitis B antigen found in saliva of infected people?	1	0.41 (0.49)	-	-
K10	How long does HBV survive in dry environments without sterilization?	1	0.50 (0.86)	A8, A12, A13	-
K11	What are the accepted methods of sterilization against HBV?	3	1.08 (1.44)	A8, A9, A12, A13	-
K12	How are vaccine dose intervals scheduled?	2	0.82 (0.99)	A4, A13	-
K13	How long after vaccination against HBV can antibody titre be discerned?	3	0.24 (0.66)	A5	-
K14	Under which conditions and how long after vaccination should a booster dose be received?	2	0.42 (0.82)	A3, A7	-
K15	What are the signs and symptoms of hepatitis?	1	0.63 (0.48)	-	-
K16	What are the laboratory findings of hepatitis?	3	0.43 (1.05)	A12, A13	-
K17	What is the first step to take after exposure to an HBV-positive patient?	2	0.51 (0.87)	-	-
K18	What is the first step to take after exposure to a patient with unknown HBV status?	2	0.25 (0.67)	A6	-

<sup>a</sup>Spearman correlations,  $P \leq 0.05$ ; - = no significant correlations.

SD = standard deviation; A = attitude domain item number