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**Title: Knowledge, Attitude, and Worry Towards New COVID-19 Strains  
Among University Students in Jordan**

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**Background & Objective:**

The SARS-COV-2 virus has mutated frequently, giving rise to multiple variants with more threatening characteristics. Our study aims to assess knowledge and attitude among university students regarding the emergent variants.

**Method:**

A descriptive, cross-sectional design was utilized in this study where knowledge, attitude, and worry towards the emergent variants were tested using an online self-administered questionnaire distributed among 417 Jordanian public university students on an interactive social media platform.

**Results:**

60% of participants believed that new COVID-19 strains can be potentially dangerous and should be dealt with, while 16% of participants believed that they weren't an important threat. Knowledge scores among participants were low as the mean score out of 18 was  $\bar{x} = 9.14/18$  (SD =  $\pm 5.22$ ). Worry scores among participants were moderate, as the mean score out of 35 was  $\bar{x} = 22.6$  (SD =  $\pm 5.53$ ). Finally, we found a significant and positive correlation between knowledge and worry. ( $r = 0.218$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:**

The relatively low knowledge and moderately worry scores found among a Jordanian public university students regarding COVID-19 variants shows the urgency of implementing educational programs aimed at enriching awareness in this regard.

**Keywords:** COVID-19; Public Health; Knowledge; Worry