Introduction:
Sepsis is a common life-threatening condition in critically ill patients [1]. Public awareness is important for early recognition of sepsis and improvement of outcomes [2]. We aimed to evaluate sepsis awareness among different groups of people.

Methods:
Prospective paper-based surveys were issued between 1st July and 1st August 2019 to patients, the relatives of the patients, hospital staff and general public who gave consent to participate in the study. The questionnaire included ten questions about demographic informations, occupational informations of hospital stuff and sepsis awareness.

Results:
A total of 588 participated in the survey. Of these participants, 87 (14.3%) were patients, 50 (8.5%) were relatives of patients, 134 (22.8%) were physicians, 125 (21.3%) were medical students, 49 (8.3%) were nurses, 51 (8.7%) were other hospital stuff and 92 (.6) were other people. Of these participants, 425 (72.3%) had heard of the word “sepsis”. 206 (35.0%) responded correctly regarding the definition of sepsis. 325 (55.3%) of the participants heard the word “sepsis” during their education, but only 53 (9%) heard it through the media. In the groups of high school graduates, university graduates and postgraduates, the rate of hearing the word sepsis and correctly identifying sepsis is significantly higher than the primary school graduates or illiterate groups. (p<0.05). Physicians, nurses and medical students were heard of the word “sepsis” significantly more than other groups (p<0.005). Physicians and medical students responded more accurately to the definition of sepsis than other groups (p<0.05).

Conclusion:
Public awareness of sepsis is limited compared to healthcare workers. Increasing public knowledge of sepsis through education and through media may contribute to raising public awareness and improving outcomes.

References: