

# **Measuring Knowledge and Attitudes of Jordanian Nurses Working in Critical Care Units toward Stroke Patients**

**By**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Stroke is a devastating disease. It is a major cause for the neurological admission to hospitals all over the world. Limited knowledge among the critical care nurses about stroke in general and specifically about the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of stroke usually is a main source of delayed prompt stroke management and non-compliance with follow-up rehabilitation. Therefore, there is a need for a study that examines the impact of these factors in order to promote stroke management and improve nursing care outcomes.

**Aim:** This study aimed at measuring the knowledge and attitudes of Jordanian nurses working in critical care units toward stroke patients.

**Methods:** This cross-sectional study used the descriptive approach in order to measure the knowledge and attitudes of the Jordanian nurses working in critical care units regarding stroke patients in the Jordanian hospitals. Data were collected from Jordanian nurses critical care units' from seven hospitals; five private and two public hospitals. Critical care units' nurses were selected conveniently based on specific inclusion criteria. Eligible participants were required to complete self-reported questionnaires about knowledge and attitude in addition to completing demographic questionnaires. The descriptive and inferential statistics were conducted using the SPSS software.

**Results:** A total of 200 nurses working in critical care units from public and private hospitals participated in the study. The nurses in this study exhibited poor knowledge and negative attitudes on the study scales. There were statistically significant differences among nurses according to the type of hospital on the two scales ( $P < .05$ ). male nurses achieved higher mean scores on the attitude scale ( $P = .029$ ). There is a negative relationship between the knowledge and years of nursing practice in ER or ICU ( $P = .013$ ), while there is a positive correlation relationship between the attitude and years of nursing practice in ER or ICU ( $P = .019$ ).

**Conclusion:** The measures of knowledge and attitude among the nurses in critical care units in the Jordanian hospitals towards stroke patients seem to be highly poor. Nurses in critical care units seem to have acceptable information, but inadequate to correctly enhance stroke awareness. There is a gap that should be stuffed via planning and implementation of educational and instructional programs focused on hospital nurses as well as community sectors in order to improve the stroke focus and experience and avoid the delay in accessing the medical help which would, in return, improve stroke management and reduce its effect in Jordan.