Nurses' Knowledge and Attitudes Regarding Pain in Emergency Departments: A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT

Effective pain management needs a strong base of pain-related knowledge and an optimal attitude toward pain, which could have a critical impact during treatment course. A descriptive cross-sectional design used to investigate emergency nurses' knowledge and attitudes regarding pain and to compare pain-related knowledge and pain-related attitudes among emergency nurses working in the government and private hospitals. A total number of 175 nurses (84 from private hospitals, 91 from governmental hospitals) recruited through a convenient sampling method. Knowledge and Attitudes Survey Regarding Pain (KASRP) was used to collect data. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 21 was utilized for data analysis.

It was found that the mean scores of Knowledge and Attitudes Survey Regarding Pain (KASRP) was 16.64 ($\pm$4.94) which indicate that Jordanian emergency nurses have knowledge deficits and low attitudes toward pain. Results revealed that nurses working in private hospitals have higher scores on KASRP (M=17.59, $\pm$ 5.6) than nurses working in governmental hospitals (M=15.75,$\pm$5.6) (p-value <0.05). There was a significant difference among nurses' scores on KASRP attributed to nurses' age and their educational level (p-value <0.05). Results revealed that there was no significant difference between male and female nurses on KASRP.

Jordanian nurses working in emergency departments have a knowledge and attitudes deficits regarding pain management. In-service educational programs about pain management are recommended for all nurses in every health care setting.

Keywords: Attitude, Knowledge, Knowledge and Attitudes Survey Regarding Pain (KASRP), Pain, Pain management