

Congruence of Pain Assessment Between Nurses and Patients in The Emergency Departments Using Two Different Tools

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Abstract

Aim: To identify congruency of pain assessment between nurses and patients in the Emergency Department (ED) using two different tools; Numerical Rating Scale (NRS) and Visual Analogue Scale (VAS).

Methods: This cross-sectional study was recruited two different sample; ED nurses and ED patients. Patients had self-reported their pain intensity using the NRS and VAS. Nurses had assessed those patients' pain intensity using the same tools. Congruency was assessed statistically using Independent Sample t test.

Results: A total of 200 patients and 67 nurses joined the study. Nurses had significantly less estimated patients' pain intensity using the NRS (means:5.18, 4.57, respectively, $p=0.007$) and the VAS (means:3.07, 2.81, respectively, $p=0.009$). While no influence of the demographic characteristics on the these gaps, nurses received training on pain demonstrated higher congruency with patients' self-scoring especially when using VAS.

Conclusion: Discrepancy between nurses' pain assessment and patients' self-assessment of pain can be reduced through providing training for nurses on pain assessment.

Keywords: Emergency Department, Pain Assessment; Nurse, Patient.