

A Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Neurological Assessment among Nursesworking in Selected Hospitals of Pune City

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Knowledge about Neurological Assessment in nurses is important in identifying neurological disturbances in the patient. Skills used while performing Neurological Assessment is the basis of all nursing training.

Aims: The present work targets to assess the knowledge in performing Neurological Assessment among staff nurses working in the selected hospitals.

Methodology: Quantitative descriptive design is used. Sampling method used is Convenience sampling. Data analysis was completed using the (SPSS) version 20.

Result: Findings showed that(52.7%) were staff nurses, almost half of the participants (56.7%) were diploma nurses. Maximum nurses were in their 30s. Almost more than half (62 %) nurses were having more than 5 years of experience. 64.3% of participants were female nurses. Results showed that the nurse's knowledge on Neurological Assessment is poor regarding Neurological Assessment

Keyword: Neurological Assessment, Knowledge, Nurses,Hospitals.

INTRODUCTION

The neurological system is an extremely dedicated system which regulate and integrate the body actions. Conducting neurological assessment depends on the professional's knowledge regarding structure of nervous system and its function and very specifically the skills required to recognize and interpret abnormalities.¹

Neurological examination is not as similar as physical examination. It is a critical evaluation of the functioning of the nervous system thereby assessing the functioning of certain parts of the body which are operated through nervous system. Neurological examination provides us the critical report about function of Brain.²

Neurological examination consist of both anatomical and functional assessment. In this we basically assess the physical function, mental function, motor function and sensory functions. Neurological examination plays a very vital role as the neurological disorders are very critical and through this examination we can critically evaluate the client and can take prompt actions.¹

With increased occurrence of neurological crisis, cerebro-vascular accidents, road traffic accidents and other neurological issues, neurological examination has become more important for healthcare personnel's caring the patients.²

Assessing client feeling a neurological disorder is a challenge to the student nurses. Neurological disorders are mostly critical and major concerns for everyday living activities & existence.

Extremely advanced nursing assessment and clinical cognitive skills are required for managing Neurological patient and in providing Nursing Management. Working nurses must know the proper parameters to be evaluated, correct practice for assessing the patient and appropriate way of recording. Nurses should be able to understand the recorded data, and should know to identify the noticeable variations in the neurological examination.³

World Health Organization reported, up to 1 billion people worldwide are affected by neurological disorders ranging from migraines to epilepsy and dementia, and this number will increase with population's age.⁵

But literature reveals that they are not competent enough in neurological examination, either they have insufficient knowledge or lack of opportunity to practice their skills because of various reasons.

The above mentioned factors like lack of knowledge, time, skills, confidence and competency of nursing students regarding neurological examination motivated the investigator to develop a video assisted teaching programme with the purpose of helping the student nurses acquire and update the knowledge and skills and be competent in neurological examination.

METHODOLOGY:

The study design used was descriptive study design. Samples were selected through convenience sampling. 100 staffs contributed in this study. The study was conducted among staff nurses of selected private hospitals in Pune city.

From a population of about 500 nurses working in the five different units of the selected hospital where the study was conducted, 100 nurses participated in the study.

The participants were taken from the units like Emergency Unit, Intensive Care Unit, and Neuro-surgical ward, Medical ward and General surgery ward. Participants were contacted telephonically and were asked for their willingness to contribute in the study. Survey was sent through email to almost 450 nurses out of which only 100 nurses has responded and participated in the study.

Data collection was done in the month of February 2021. 20 minutes were given to solve the questions, as it has time limit. Data was analyzed using the SPSS 20.0 version. Ethical approval was acquired from the Institute Research committee and Subcommittee IEC.

RESULT:

Section I: Demographic Variables

Most of the participants (52.7%) were staff nurses, almost half of the participants (56.7%) were diploma nurses. Maximum nurses were in their 30s. Almost more than half (62 %) nurses were having more than 5 years of experience. 64.3% of participants were female nurses.

Section II: Knowledge about Neurological Assessment

82.6% of the participants were knowing what Neurological Assessment is. Only (49.9%) responded appropriately to the question, relating to the components of the Neurological Assessment. Only 48.8% of the members were knowing that vital signs are not a part of the Neurological Assessment. About (20%) of the nurses knew how to conduct the Neurological Assessment.

Results indicated awareness of nurses on Neurological Assessment is poor regarding Neurological Assessment.

Discussion

Present work was done to assess the knowledge of nurses about the Neurological Assessment and identify demographic factors associated with their knowledge. Similar to previous studies, more than half of the participants in this study (51.1%) had poor and average knowledge about the Neurological Assessment. This study depicts 8.9% had good knowledge, 41% had satisfactory knowledge, and 51.1% had poor knowledge of Neurological Assessment. This is similar to the finding by Afizu Alhassan et al. The study

was limited to nurses only. It is recommended that studies should be conducted on other Medical personnel too.

Conclusion

The current study displays that the level of knowledge about Neurological examination among Nurses working in selected hospitals of Pune city is poor. It is an alarming condition in which we as the part of the healthcare team should take some improvement steps and make our nurses more efficient and skilful.

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