



Knowledge Regarding Asepsis Among Staff Nurses

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ABSTRACT

Asepsis is freedom from infection or prevention of contact with microorganisms. Aseptic technique is a set of specific practices and performed under carefully controlled conditions with goal of minimizing contamination by pathogen. The present study was conducted for the core purpose of assessing knowledge regarding asepsis among staff nurses.

It is also intended to find out the attitude and the intention of staff nurses towards aseptic measures. The research approach used in the study is quantitative approach and the design is descriptive. The sample for the study comprised of 80 graduate staff nurses working in private Medical College Hospital in Trivandrum. The sampling technique adopted for the selection of the sample is simple random method. A semi structured questionnaire was used to find out the knowledge regarding asepsis among staff nurses. After establishing validity and reliability of the tool , a pilot study was done before undertaking the main study ,after obtaining ethical clearance. Study findings revealed that majority of staff nurses, 87.50% had adequate knowledge and 12.50% had inadequate knowledge about asepsis.

KEYWORDS : knowledge ,asepsis ,staff nurses

Introduction

Infection control practices form the backbone of nursing practice. Every day nurses protect themselves, their patients, and the public from infectious disease by using hand washing and other aseptic practices following detailed isolation procedures, reprocessing patient-care equipment, and overseeing the infection control practices of the people they supervise.

Health care professionals are constantly exposed to microorganisms. Many of which can cause serious or even lethal infections. Nurses in particular are often exposed to various infections during the course of carrying out their nursing activities. Nursing students are also at risk of getting such infections and injuries due to accidental contamination during their practical occupational exposure. Exposure to infectious material can be minimized by adherence to standard precautions which are designed to reduce the risk of acquiring occupational infection from both known and unexpected sources in the healthcare setting.

Despite the guidelines developed in several countries, compliance with aseptic precautions is known to be "poor and lacking". Several studies indicated that better knowledge of universal precautions among health care workers was one of the predictors of better compliance. Other factors that contribute to non-compliance with standard precautions include lack of understanding and knowledge among health care workers on how to properly use protective barriers, lack of time, lack of resources, and lack of proper training.

Studies on infection control are increasing over the world; however there is a need to assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding asepsis and their application in clinical setting

Materials and Methods

In this study the researcher adopted a quantitative approach using a descriptive research design. The setting of the study was a Private Medical College and Hospital at Trivandrum. The population of the study was staff nurses . Subjects were staff nurses present at the time of data collection and those who satisfy the inclusion criteria. Sample size was 80 recruited using simple random sampling method.

Tools and techniques

Tool 1 : was the sociodemographic proforma.

Tool 2: was Questionnaire to assess the knowledge. It consisted of questions to assess the knowledge of asepsis.

Data collection process

Data was collected after getting formal permission from the director.

Results

1) The characteristics of the study population were as follows:-

Age: 66% of subjects were between the age group of 20-25, 31% between the age group of 26-30 and only 3% were between the age group of 31-35.

Gender: 87.5% of selected staff nurses were females and 2.5% were males.

Qualification of nurses: 50% of selected staff nurses were almost graduate nurses and the rest were diploma.

Experience: 16.25% of the subjects had less than one year experience , 60% of were with 1-2 year experience , only 20% of their were with 3-5 yrs of experience.

Area of Working: More than half (61.25%) were working in general wards , 25% of subjects were from ICU'S.

Exposure to infection control classes: 77.50% of Subjects reported that they were exposed to infection control classes.

2) Knowledge level of staff nurses are as follows:



3) Association between socio -demographic variables and the knowledge regarding asepsis among staff nurses:

The present study revealed that there is no significant association between socio-demographic variables and knowledge regarding asepsis among staff nurses

Discussion :

In the present study revealed that majority of staff nurses, 87.50% had adequate knowledge and 12.50% had inadequate knowledge about asepsis, which is in correlation with a study done among the staff nurses who are working in a private hospital, Samar in Philippines. That study revealed that majority 89.7% had good knowledge regarding aseptic measures.

Both studies showed that majority nurses have good knowledge regarding the aseptic measures.

The present study revealed that there is no significant association between socio-demographic variables and knowledge regarding asepsis among staff nurses. A study conducted among staff nurses who are working in selected 4 hospitals in Samar shows that there is positive association between knowledge and its application

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