



KNOWLEDGE OF STAFF NURSES REGARDING SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND PERCEPTION OF THEIR ROLE IN GENETIC COUNSELLING

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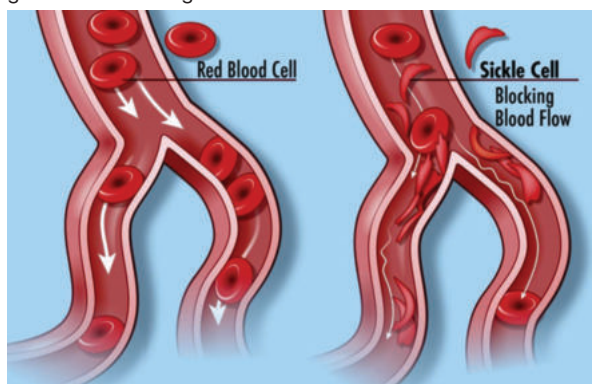
ABSTRACT

Sickle cell anaemia is a blood disorder that a child carries from their birth. It's passed down through a parent's genes. Because of abnormal type of haemoglobin, the body organs and tissue don't get enough oxygen and it will affect child growth and development. Genetic counselling plays an important role in this. By performing easy diagnosis as early as foetal stage, genetic counselling's main objective is to inform concerned people about genetic risk. It gives them all the elements they require to freely decide about their offsprings.

KEYWORDS :

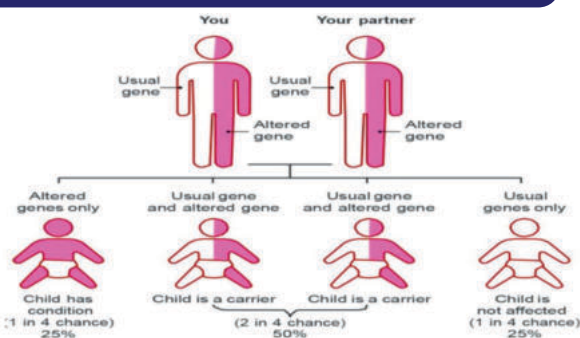
INTRODUCTION:

Sickle cell disease is the most common genetic blood disease and inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. It is a common genetic condition due to a haemoglobin disorder – inheritance of mutant haemoglobin genes from both parents. Sickle cell anaemia is a term that denotes a group of genetic disorders caused by sickle shaped haemoglobin. In patients with sickle cell disease the human red blood cells take a different shape upon de-oxygenation because of polymerization of the abnormal sickle haemoglobin. This process cause damage to the red blood cell membrane and cause the red blood cells to get attached in blood vessels. This attachment or adherence of the red blood cells deprives the tissue of oxygen causing ischemia and infraction. If this disease is chronic it can lead to periodic painful attacks, damage of internal organs with complication of strokes and shorten life span. In India total number of sickle cell disease in children, 50% of them had their first manifestation with in fifth year of life and another 25% manifested by tenth year of age. Now advancements in genetic diagnosis have greatly increased opportunity and responsibilities of nurses in all level of practices in terms of assessment, referral, education and counselling. Because nurses play an important role, who spend more time with the patients and a positive perception of nurse towards genetic counselling aid in involvement of nurses in prenatal disease and screening program, thus the investigator felt to assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding sickle cell disease and perception of their role in genetic counselling.



Need Of The Study:

In the sickle cell disease, the genetic counselling plays an important role because a person that receives a defective gene from both father and mother develops the disease; a person that receives one defective and one healthy allele remains healthy, but can pass on disease and is known as carrier. If two parents who are carrier have a child there is 1 in 4 chance of their child developing the disease and a 1 in 2 chance of their child just a carrier. So genetic counselling helps to reduce the number of sickle cell disease.



Objectives Of The Study:

1. To assess the knowledge of nurses regarding sickle cell disease.
2. To assess the perception of nurses regarding their role in genetic counselling.
3. To find out the correlation between the knowledge regarding sickle cell disease & perception of staff nurses regarding genetic counselling.
4. To find out association between knowledge regarding sickle cell disease and selected demographic variable.
5. To find out association between perception of staff nurses regarding genetic counselling and selected socio demographic variable.
6. To develop a computer based teaching program on genetic counselling in sickle cell disease.

Conceptual Frame Work:

The investigator selected Modified rosenstochs, Becker and Maimans health belief model because it includes the individual perception, modifying factors and their likelihood actions in which they can perceive benefits and barriers.

Materials And Methods Of The Study:

Research approach: Qualitative research approach

Study design: Descriptive research design

Sampling technique: Convenient sampling

Sample size: 50 staff nurses working in pediatric, Nicu, Obg wards

Tool: Self structured questioner to assess knowledge and checklist to assess perception.

Section A sociodemographic- Investigator constructed the tool to collect the sociodemographic data of the study.

Section B- The multiple choice knowledge questionnaire used in this study was prepared by researcher to measure the knowledge of staff nurses regarding sickle cell disease.

Section C- Self structured check list prepared by researcher to assess the perception of staff nurses about their role in genetic counselling.

RESULT:

Section A-

It deals with the demographic variables which are age, sex, education, working experience and area of work.

Section B-

This section has 27 questionnaire knowledge regarding sickle cell disease. It consist of four main areas namely concept and causes, clinical manifestation, management and genetic counselling. Each question has four option with one correct answer. The score for correct response to each item was one and incorrect response was zero. Thus for 27 items maximum obtainable score was 27 and minimum was 0. To interpret the level of knowledge. The result showed that the 88% staff nurses had good knowledge and 6% had excellent knowledge and 6% had average knowledge.

Section C-

This section has 10 checklist questionnaire regarding their role in genetic counselling so result showed that 76% had excellent perception and 24% had good perception.

DISCUSSION:

The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge of staff nurse regarding sickle cell disease and perception of their role in genetic counselling in selected hospital. Convenient sampling technique was used to select the samples. A structured knowledge questionnaire used to collect the knowledge data regarding sickle cell disease and checklist was constructed to know perception of their role in genetic counselling. In result its shows they have good knowledge and excellent perception.

CONCLUSION:

The study concludes that, the knowledge of staff nurse regarding sickle cell disease was good in all areas and they have excellent perception regarding their role in genetic counselling. On the basis of research findings, researcher found that there is a need to develop a computer based teaching program for nurses regarding genetic counselling in sickle cell disease for improving their knowledge and perception.

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