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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE ON DECUBITUS ULCERS, AMONG NURSING PERSONNEL WORKING AT MEDICITI HOSPITAL, GHANPUR (V),RANGA REDDY (DIST.), ANDHRA PRADESH", WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP AN INFORMATION BOOKLET

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ABSTRACT

Background: The skin is the largest organ of the body and serves a variety of important functions in maintaining health and protecting the individual from injury. Impaired skin integrity is not a frequent problem for most of the healthy people, but it is always a threat to older people, clients with restricted mobility, chronic illness or trauma and to those undergoing invasive health care procedure. Any patients experiencing prolonged pressure is at risk for Decubitus ulcer. Elderly patients have increased risk because of normal aging changes of the skin. Because thin patients have little padding when pressure is present. Obesity also is a contributing factor because adipose tissue is poorly vascularized and is therefore more likely to develop ischemic changes. Method: A non-experimental descriptive design was used with a sample size of 30 nursing personnels with a structured questionnaire to achieve the objectives of the study. Data collection was carried out for a period of 2 weeks from 21-07-2013 to 22-07-2013. This data were entered into the excel sheets and analyzed using SPSS for windows, Version 16.0, Chi-square test was used for the evaluation of the level of significance. The researcher adhered to several critical ethical considerations regarding obligations and responsibilities in the recruitment of participants and data collection. Approval has obtained from Institutional human ethics committee. Formal administrative permission was obtained from a nursing institute administration. Informed printed agreement was taken from the subjects.4] Maintain the confidentiality of data. Results: In the pretest 43% of the respondents had inadequate knowledge, 37% of the respondents had moderate knowledge and 20% of the respondents had adequate knowledge regarding Decubitus ulcers. Conclusion: the findings of the study concluded that majority of the nursing personnels had inadequate knowledge regarding Decubitus ulcers.

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INTRODUCTION

"An ounce of prevention may be worth tons rather than pounds of cure"

The skin is the largest organ of the body & serves a variety of important functions in maintaining health & protecting the individual from injury. Impaired skin integrity is not a frequent problem for most of the healthy people, but it is always a threat to older people, to clients with restricted mobility, chronic illness or trauma & to those undergoing invasive health care procedure. Decubitus ulcer known as pressure sore is a lesion caused by prolonged pressure against the skin. This may occur from spending a prolonged period in one position, causing the weight of the body to compress the capillaries against a bed or chair, especially over bony prominences.

Decubitus ulcer is a result of tissue anoxia and begins to develop within 20-40 minutes of unrelieved pressure on the skin. Other causes include pressure from a tight splint or cast, traction, or other device. Those at risk are immobile patients, those with decreased circulation, and those with impaired sensory perception or neurological function. Mechanical forces (pressure friction and shear) lead to the formation of Decubitus Ulcer. Any patients experiencing prolonged pressure is at risk for Decubitus ulcer. Elderly patients have increased risk because of normal aging changes of the skin. Because thin patients have little padding when pressure is present. Obesity also is a contributing factor because adipose tissue is poorly vascuralized and is therefore more likely to develop ischemic changes. In 1992, the Federal Agency for Health Care Policy and research reported that Decubitus ulcer afflicts; 10 % of hospital patients, 25 % of nursing home residents and 60 % of quadriplegics.

The agency also noted that 65% of elderly people hospitalized with broken hips develop Decubitus Ulcers. A health care provider should be consulted whenever a person develops decubitus ulcers. An emergency situation may be indicated if ulcers become tender, swollen or warm to the touch if the patient develops fever or if the ulcers have pus or foul smelling discharge. For mild ulcer treatment basically involves relieving pressure on the area and keeping the skin clean and dry. A saline solution is often used to clean the wound sites whenever a fresh bandage is applied. Disinfectants are applied if the site is infected. Prompt medical attention can prevent decubitus ulcer from deepening into more serious infections. People whose movements or sense of touch is limited by disability and disease should be monitored to ensure that the skin remains clean, dry and healthy. A bedridden patient should be repositioned at least once every 2 hours while awake. A person who uses a wheel chair should remember to shift the body's position often or they should be helped to reposition the body at least once in an hour. Decubitus ulcers can usually be cured, but about 60,000 deaths a year are attributed to complications caused by decubitus ulcer. Researchers are searching for more effective decubitus ulcer treatment. Under investigation are hyperbaric oxygen, electrotherapy and topical use of human growth factors. Growth factors - proteins that stimulate cell growth have been approved for the treatment of diabetic ulcers but not, as yet, for decubitus ulcers.

HYPOTHESIS

H1: There will be a significant association between the knowledge levels of nursing personnel with their selected demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the present study an exploratory research approach was adopted in order to assess the knowledge on Decubitus Ulcers, among nursing personnel working at Medi Citi Hospital, Ghanpur (V), Ranga Reddy (Dist.), Andhra Pradesh", with a view to develop an information booklet., An descriptive design has been used to attain the objectives of the present study. After obtaining Institutional ethical clearance, study was conducted at MediCiti Hospital, Ghanpur (V), Ranga Reddy (Dist.), Andhra Pradesh. The Independent variable is information booklet regarding Decubitus ulcer and Dependent variable is the knowledge level of the nursing personnel's regarding Decubitus Ulcers. The target population of the present study comprises of nursing personnelworking at MediCiti Hospital, Ghanpur (V), Ranga Reddy (Dist.), Andhra Pradesh. By adopting convenience sampling technique 30 personnel working at MediCiti Hospital, Ghanpur (V),Ranga Reddy (Dist.), Andhra Pradesh was used to collect data. Data collection was carried out for a period of 2 weeksfrom 21-07-2013 to 22-07-2013. This data were entered into the excel sheets and analyzed using SPSS for windows, Version 16.0, Chi-square test was used for the evaluation of the level of significance. The researcher adhered to several critical ethical considerations regarding obligations and responsibilities in the recruitment of participants and data collection.1] Approval has obtained from Institutional human ethics committee. 2] Formal administrative permission was obtained from a nursing institute administration.3] Informed printed

agreement was taken from the subjects.4] Maintain the confidentiality of data.

Inclusion Criteria

The study included nursing personnel's

- With professional qualification of G.N.M, B.Sc and Post B.Sc.
- Working at Mediciti Hospital, Medchal Mandal.
- Available at the time of data collection.
- Who are willing to participate in the study.
- Who are working at different units.

Exclusion criteria

The study excluded the nursing personnel's

- Without the professional qualification of G.N.M, B.Sc, Post B.Sc.
- Who are not working in Mediciti hospital, Medchal Mandal.
- Who are not available at the time of data collection.
- Who are not willing to participate in the study.
- Who are working in outpatient departments

RESULTS

The results were documented on the following headings

Analysis of demographic variables: The frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables shows that majority of the subjects participated in the study were between the age group of 26 - 30 years (53.3%), majority of the students participated in the study were female (60%),majority of the subjects participated in the study were Christians (70%),majority of the subjects participated in the study were unmarried (93.4%),majority of the subjects participated in the study were working at emergency unit (50%),majority of the subjects participated in the study were GNM (60%),majority of the subjects participated in the study were GNM (60%),majority of the subject participated in the study did not attend any in-service education programme on Decubitus ulcer (70%).

Knowledge of nursing personnel's regarding Decubitus ulcers: Among 30 nursing personnel's, 13 (43.33%) had inadequate knowledge, 11 (36.66%) had moderate knowledge and 6 (20%) had adequate knowledge.

Association of level of knowledge of nursing personnel's regarding decubitus ulcers with their selected demographic variables: With respect to demographic variables only age, educational status, work experience and in-service education had significant association with the level of knowledge.

DISCUSSION

Objective I: To assess the knowledge of nursing Personnel's regarding Decubitus ulcers: Table 2: a reveals that among 30 nursing personnel's, 13 (43%) of the respondents had inadequate knowledge, 11 (37%) of the respondents had moderate knowledge and 6 (20%) of the respondents had adequate knowledge regarding Decubitus Ulcers.

Table 1 a. Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing Personnel's according to age in years, gender, religion and Marital status

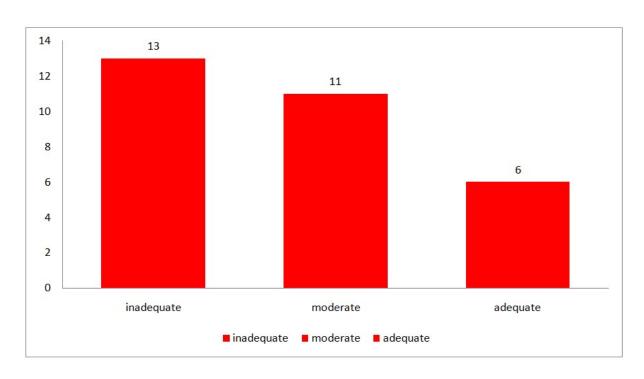
N=30

SL NO.	DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Age in years		
	▶20 – 25	-	-
	▶26 – 30	16	53.3%
	≽31 - 35	14	46.7%
2.	Gender		
	≻Male	12	40%
	≻Female	18	60%
3.	Religion		
	≻Muslim	3	10%
	≻Hindu	6	20%
	➤ Christian	21	70%
	≻Others	-	-
4.	Marital status		
	➤ Married	2	6.6%
	➤Unmarried	28	93.4%
5.	Educational status		
	≽GNM	18	60%
	≻Post B Sc	-	-
	≻B Sc	12	40%
	≻M Sc	-	-
6.	Place of working		
	≻Surgical	5	16.6%
	➤ Medical	4	13.4%
	➤ Emergency	15	50%
	≽Gync	6	20%
7.	Work experience		
	➤Less than 1 year	-	-
	►1 – 2 years	18	60%
	>3 − 4 years	12	40%
8.	In service education		
	≻Yes	9	30%
	≻No	21	70%

Table 2 a. Overall level of knowledge of nursing personnel's Regarding Decubitus ulcers

N=30

SAMPLES	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE						
NURSING	INADEQUATE (< 50%)		MODERATE (51 – 75 %)		ADEQUATE (> 75%)		
PERSONNEL'S	n	%	n	%	n	%	
	13	43.33%	11	36.66%	6	20%	



Objective II: To determine the association between the knowledge of nursing personnel's with their selected demographic variables

The study findings revealed that only age, educational status, work experience and in service education had significant association with the level of knowledge.Regarding age and knowledge, the obtained chi-square value was 6.42 which was found to be greater than the p value of 3.84 at 0.05 levels. Hence the chi-square value is significant. Regarding educational status and knowledge, the obtained chi-square value was 5.07 which was greater than the p value of 3.84 at 0.05 level. Regarding type of work experience and knowledge, the obtained chi-square value was 5.36 which was found to be greater than the p value of 3.84 at 0.05 level Regarding in service education and knowledge, the obtained chi-square value was 4.88 which was found to be greater than the p value of 3.48 at 0.05 level. Hence the chi-square value is significant. Thus, the hypothesis is accepted. This indicates that there was significant association between in service education and knowledge.

LIMITAITONS

- The findings could be generalized only to the nursing personnel's of MediCiti hospitals.
- A structured questionnaire only was used for data collection which restricted the amount of information that could be obtained from the respondents.
- An information booklet was only used for imparting knowledge regarding Decubitus Ulcers.

CONCLUSION

The study finding concluded that majority of the nursing personnel's had inadequate knowledge regarding decubitus ulcers. Funding: No funding sources. Conflict of interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest regarding this investigation. Ethical approval: The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee

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