

6th World Nursing and Healthcare Conference

August 15-17, 2016 London, UK

Temporal analysis of nurses' knowledge and skills before and after abdominal compartment syndrome teaching program

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Early recognition of abdominal compartment syndrome (ACS) is essential, as delay in the diagnosis may induce a negative impact on prognosis. However, there are some evidences suggesting a low level of knowledge concerning ACS in intensive care units (ICU).

Aim: The aim of this paper was to assess the knowledge of critical care nurses about IAH and ACS, measurement techniques, predictors for the development of IAH and ACS before and after implementing teaching program.

Setting: Trauma, general, burn and coronary intensive care units at Assiut University Hospitals.

Sample: Between October 2015 and April 2016, 32 critical care nurses who were working in the selected setting with more than one year of clinical experience.

Research design: A pre-post-test research design was used.

Methods: A self-administered questionnaire and an observational checklist were used pre and post implementation of teaching program.

Results: The results showed that more than 90% of participants were not able to identify causes ,risk factors, predictors and management of IAH and ACS in the pre-test results, but these results were improved after implementation of the teaching program in the post-test results.

Conclusion: Nurse's knowledge and practice on ACS was low, as most were not able to measure, interpret the results and recognize important risk factors for IAP in the pre-test and these results improved after implementation of the teaching program in the post-test. These data demonstrate that continuous educational efforts concerning ACS are necessary in order to standardize the measurement of IAP in populations at risk, aiming at a better outcome in critically ill patients.

Recommendation: Annually assessment and refreshing courses to nursing staff with up- to- date guidelines to impart cognitive knowledge and psychomotor skills of intra-abdominal compartment syndrome and to provide a standardized care to intra-abdominal compartment syndrome patients.

Biography

Ghada Shalaby Khalaf Mahran has completed his PhD at the age of 32 years from Assiut University and postdoctoral studies from Assiut University faculty of nursing. He has published more than 3 papers in reputed journals.

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