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The effect of improving knowledge, attitude and practice of nursing to control infections among liver transplant recipients

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Infection is a major problem for patients who get liver transplanted. The nurse play a critical role in the prevention and treatment of hospital infections, The aim of this study was to assess the effect of improving nurse's knowledge, attitude and practice regarding infection control on the occurrence of infection among liver transplant. The study was conducted in National liver institute, Menoufia University. Design: Experimental study was used. Sample: 65 nurses (all nurses work in surgical department, ICU and operation department) were measured their level of knowledge, attitude and practice before and after implementation of the IC program. And 80 patients of liver transplantation were included and were divided into two groups. Group I included 40 patients who were retrospective (all data collected from the patient's files and records before implementation of the IC program). Group II included other 40 patients after implementation of the IC program. There were three tools used for data collection: a structured interview questionnaire and an observation checklist for nurses and patients. The structured interview questionnaire was used before and after the program to measure the exact level of knowledge, attitude and practices that nurses have about infection such as (definition of sterilization, proper isolation, infection control, types of sterilization, equipment that may be sterilized in autoclave (20 questions). It also assesses nurse's knowledge about universal precaution related to blood and body fluids (16 questions) and their knowledge about hand washing (4 questions). The second tool is an observation checklist that was developed for assessing nurses' performance. The third tool is an observation checklist that was developed for assessing patient health status before and after implementation of infection control program. Data were collected during the period from the beginning of January 2012 to January 2013.

Results of this study indicated that the infection control program had a significant impact ($p>0.01$) on improved nurse's knowledge, attitude and practice, which also reflected on the rate of infection transmission among patients with liver transplantation. Where the infection rate decreased in Group II to (27.5% infection rate after) implementation of the nosocomial infection control program compared to infection rate in Group I (70% infection rate) before implementation of infection control program ($p>0.01$). There was a statistical significant difference ($p>0.01$) between postoperative prolonged ICU stay days and incidence of infection post liver transplantation and elevated level of preoperative TLC & CRP and incidence of infection post liver transplantation.

Conclusion: low frequency of correct answer was observed among nurses in the pre test, the prevalence of correct answer was increased in the post test related to knowledge, attitude and practice. And the infection rate among liver transplant recipient was decreased after the implementation of infection control program.

Recommendations: periodic refresher in-service training courses should be provided to nurses in order to keep them of up dating knowledge, attitude and practice regarding to infection

Biography

AmanyGomaa has completed his PhD at the age of 32 years from Faculty of Nursing, Menoufia University and Registered for PhD in Hospital Management. She is a lecturer of community health nursing faculty of nursing, Fayoum University. She is responsible for provide training courses in emergency and intensive care procedures for the Egyptian General Organization of Teaching Hospitals and Institutes. She also had the Professional Certificate in Nosocomial Infection Control – Institute of Quality Management, The American University in Cairo, Egypt.

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