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Assessment of Nurses' Knowledge about Management of Psychiatric Patients in Emergency Unit

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Abstract---The Emergency Department is a fast-paced setting where nurses must deal with crucial situations such as psychologically disturbed patients. Nurses in emergency rooms are frequently presented with patients who exhibit physical symptoms associated with psychiatric disorder, which might impair nurses' ability to make an accurate diagnosis and manage their patients. A descriptive analytic design was conducted on measurement of the Nurses' Knowledge regarding management of psychiatric disorders at emergency units in Babylon governorate for the period of (December 12th, 2021 to march 14th, 2022). The study instrument was designed to meet the objectives of the current study, which was consisting of two parts: the first part includes the demographical data for nurses; the second part includes the knowledge management Scale 32 items (KMS). The results showed that nurses are young with age (27.89 ± 6.291 year) in which 75.8% of them are seen with age group of 20-29 year. The study shows nurses have a good level of knowledge for items related to knowledge about the treatment of psychiatric disorders at emergency units as seen among 89.4%. The study concluded that most nurses have a good level of knowledge ' about the treatment of psychiatric disorders at emergency units.

Keywords---assessment, emergency unit, management, nurses knowledge, psychiatric.

Introduction

The emergency department is the first place people with emergencies go for help, and its main functions are resuscitation, limb salvage, and symptom relief in an emergency and complex situation, emergency department nurses provide wide

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spectrum of nursing care to patients of all ages (Chou & Tseng, 2020). The Emergency Department [ED] is a fast-paced setting where nurses must deal with crucial situations such as psychologically disturbed patients (Ebrahimi et al., 2016). Nurses in emergency rooms are frequently presented with patients who exhibit physical symptoms associated with psychiatric disorder, which might impair nurses' ability to make an accurate diagnosis and manage their patients (McCaffery et al., 2005).

Psychosocial and mental health care is regarded as a critical component of all health-care providers' responsibilities, since it contributes to patient satisfaction and care quality (International Council of Nursing [ICN], 2013). According to previous studies, psychiatric disorders are present in 84 percent of patients who visit emergency rooms often (Cleaver, 2014; Faessler et al., 2016). They feature abrupt changes in emotions or behavior that, if left unchecked, might cause substantial physical, mental, or social harm if not addressed (Jayabharathi et al., 2019). A psychological emergency is a disruption in cognition, mood, or behavior that produces immediate distress or incapacity in the individual or others, necessitating intervention (Sreevani, 2016). Psychiatric emergencies are symptoms that arise in one or more areas of emotion, thinking, or behavior, affecting people's bodily, mental, social, and functional integrity, as well as their quality of life, to the point that they can no longer accept it (Kocaman, 2007). Psychiatric symptoms can also occur as a result of medical disorders, poisonings, substance addiction, drug side effects, and drug-drug combinations (Şahingöz et al., 2014; Kocaman, 2007). Many chronic mental illnesses, psychological stress disorders, and life events might result in an emergency psychiatric situation (Büyükbayram et al., 2018).

Materials and Method

A descriptive analytic design was conducted on measurement of the Nurses' Knowledge and Skills regarding management of psychiatric disorders at emergency units in Babylon governorate for the period of (December 12th, 2021 to march 14th, 2022). The study instrument was designed to meet the objectives of the current study, which was consisting of two parts: the first part includes the covering letter, demographical data for nurses; the second part includes the knowledge management Scale (KMS) (AlShibi & Hamdan-Mansour, 2020) that include two parts; Part one consisted of 15 items (item 1-15) measuring nurses' knowledge in Nurses' Knowledge regarding Management of Psychiatric disorders at Emergency Units (MPSD); Part two, items (16 -32) was designated to measure knowledge regarding the physical and Psychiatric Signs and Symptoms of Psychiatric Disorders (SPSD).

This study was conducted in teaching hospitals in the province of Babylon, which are the hospitals that are considered in the center of the governorate, and most patients visit them for the purpose of treatment for the period from December 12th, 2021 to February 12th, 2022. A non-probability, purposive sample of (268) nurses working in emergency units in hospitals (Marjan medical city hospital, Al-Hilla teaching hospital and Al-Imam Al-Sadiq Teaching Hospital) was intentionally selected in Babylon Governorate, and the sample was subjected through a

structure of interview self-report between the researcher and the nurses. 256 nurses participated in filling out the forms from 268 nurses, where 2 forms were neglected due to their incompleteness, and 10 nurses did not want to fill out the forms.

Results

Table 1
Distribution of nurses according to their socio-demographic characteristics

List	Characteristics	f	%
1	Age M±SD= 27.89±6.291	< 20 year	.4
		20 – 21 year	179
		30 – 39 year	41
		40 – 49 year	11
		50 ≤ year	4
	<i>Total</i>	236	100
2	Gender	Male	110
		Female	126
		<i>Total</i>	236
3	Nursing qualification	Middle/secondary school	62
		Diploma	114
		Bachelor	60
	<i>Total</i>	236	100
4	Having experience in psychiatric nursing?	Yes	147
		No	89
		<i>Total</i>	236
5	Participated in psychiatric training course?	Yes	27
		No	209
		<i>Total</i>	236
6	Years of experience in nursing M±SD= 6.52±6.304	< 1 year	24
		1 – 5 years	113
		6 – 10 years	58
		11 – 15 year	23
		16 – 20 year	8
		21 ≤ year	10
	<i>Total</i>	236	100
7	Years of experience in emergency units M±SD= 3.22±4.225	< 1 year	57
		1 – 5 years	139
		6 – 10 years	24
		11 – 15 year	5
		16 – 20 year	7
	21 ≤ year	4	
	<i>Total</i>	236	100

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, M: Mean, SD: Standard deviation

Table 2

Overall assessment of nurses' knowledge about management of psychiatric disorder in emergency units

Knowledge	f	%	M	SD
Poor	0	0		
Fair	25	10.6	52.69	6.948
Good	211	89.4		
<i>Total</i>	<i>236</i>	<i>100</i>		

f: Frequency, %: Percentage

M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score

Poor= 0 – 21, Fair= 22 – 43, Good= 44 - 64

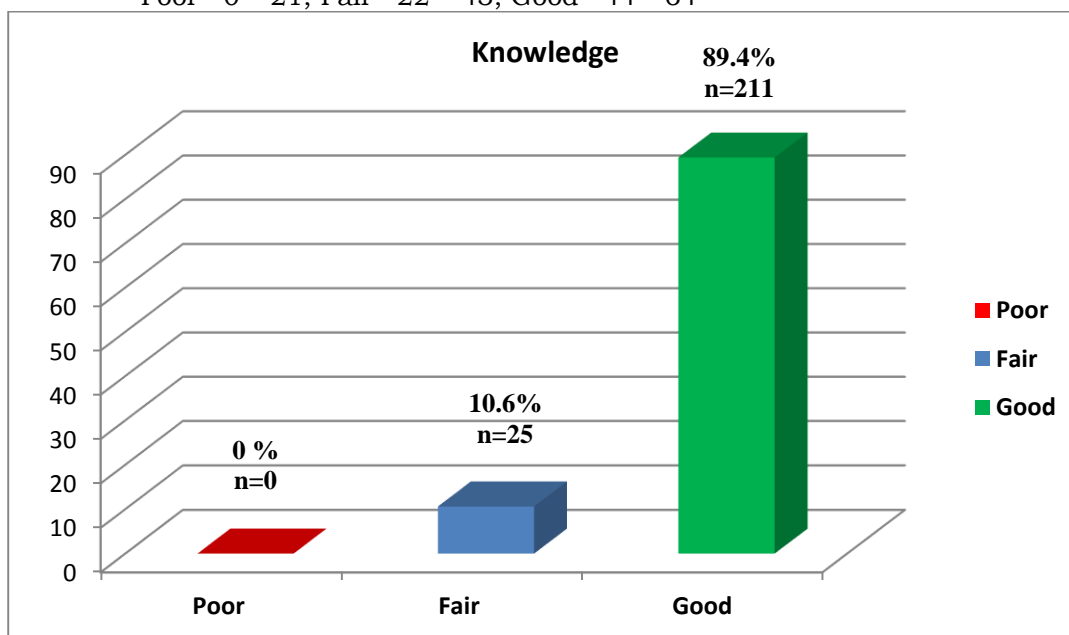


Figure 1. Overall Knowledge among Nurses (N=236)

This figure reveals that 89.4% of nurses show good level of knowledge.

Discussion

Table (1). Show that the sample for this study consisted of (95%) nurses who agreed to participate in this study, as shown in the table (1). The descriptive analysis of sociodemographic variables showed that nurses are young with age of 20-29 year. This result is closed to the result of Morphet et al., (2012) who was reported that almost of sample of his study was with age (18-30) years. Regarding gender of nurses, it showed that more than half of them are females working in emergency units. The large number of nurse's staff was almost for female, as well as registration in nursing middle schools for females only, and the rate of acceptance in the study of institutes and colleges for females is lower than for males. A study revealed by Holmberg et al., (2020) that almost of sample was female where she was (64%) and male (35%). In addition, the authors Jayabharathi et al., (2019) refer to the sample was female (88%) and male was

(12%). Also Melo et al., (2016) agree with this result Women's domination appears as an essential trait highlighted in nursing practice that reflects the profession's history. Females continue to be the majority gender in the nursing profession, according to gender ratios (Phukubye et al., 2021).

The nursing qualification for nurses who are working in emergency units refers that high percentage seen with a diploma in nursing, approximately quadrant of them are with bachelor's degree and remaining are graduated from middle or secondary school. This result is close to study of Jayabharathi et al., (2019) which found (55%) of nurses in the study has diploma in nursing. The finding regarding experience in psychiatric nursing refers that 62.3% of nurses have experience in psychiatric nursing. The study revealed they participated in psychiatric training course in addition some of nurses are graduated with Bachelor degree in nursing.

It has known of nurses' knowledge analysis that they show good level of knowledge regarding management of psychiatric patients in emergency room. This finding could be explained due to the learning that they obtained during their studies in colleges, institutes and middle schools, as well as because of their participation in courses on mental health, as well as due to the presence of nurses with a bachelor's degree in nursing. A study of Al-Shaibi and Hamdan Mansour (2020) reported that the results was, 25% of the nurses had a rating of 95 or less, 25% had a score of 127 or more, and 50% had a score between 95 and 127 which indicated a high score in knowledge, their findings showed that majority of nurses have a good degree of expertise to manage patients with psychological disorder in EDs. Additional support was found by Jelinek et al., (2013), Sivakumar et al., (2011) who reported that nurses have good level of knowledge about psychiatric disorder.

Conclusion

The study concluded that the nurses have good level of knowledge about management of psychiatric disorders that is supposed to enable them to manage psychiatric disorders.

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