Abstract title: Nurses' knowledge, attitudes and practices towards cancer pain management in a selected University Teaching Hospital of Kigali in Rwanda.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Management of cancer pain is complex mostly due to the lack of knowledge of healthcare providers, and patient education on how to actively participate in pain management. However, nurses remain the first responder when it comes to the management of patient with cancer pain.

Study aim: Is to investigate nurses' knowledge, attitudes and practice regarding cancer pain management in a selected University Teaching Hospital in order to improve the quality of care provided to client with cancer pain.

Methods: A cross sectional quantitative design was used with a proportionate systematic sampling strategy which consisted of 140 nurses in the emergency, medical and surgical ward units respectively in a selected University Teaching Hospital after their consent to participate. Data were collected using Knowledge and Attitudes Survey (KAS) tool and analyzed using both inferential and descriptive statistics by using Statistical Packages of Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23. Ethical approvals and permission to conduct this study were obtained Ethical principles were also considered.

Results: The study revealed deficit knowledge regarding opioids use whereby less than a half 37.1% of the respondents mentioned that it takes an estimate of 1-2 hours to reach peak effect and 61.1% knew that knew that if the source of pain is unknown, opioids are contraindicated. It noticed also negative attitudes regarding cancer pain management whereby the majority 64.3% accepted that a nurse can determine the pain intensity without asking the patient and only 10.7% were used to assess pain regularly. Though, the mainstream accepted that placebo injection of distilled water is useful to determine real pain regarding to their practices.

Conclusion: Knowledge deficits and misconceptions about pain assessment and management suggest that pain is being inappropriately managed in this setting. Foundation of affordable hospice and palliative care settings for better cancer pain management, increase of in-service training, improvement of process of assessing and treating pain and further researches on cancer pain management are recommended.

Key words

Attitude, knowledge, Cancer, pain.

Professional Biography

I am Bellancille NIKUZE working as Assistant Lecturer in University of Rwanda, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, School of Nursing and Midwifery, in the Department of Nursing. I am experienced Nurse Educator specialized in Oncology Nursing and I am actively involved in academic activities including mainly teaching modules such as Therapeutic Interventions in Oncology, Evidence based practice in Oncology and Communication and leadership in health care systems. To increase my knowledge and skills, I participated in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in different areas including conferences among others International Nursing Conference (INC) in Rwanda where I presented an abstract, and African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC).



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