ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

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PAIN TREATMENT PRACTICE AND ITS IMPACT ON PATIENT SATISFACTION IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT: EXPERIENCE FROM TIKUR ANBESSA SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL, ETHIOPIA, 2019.

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Abstract

Background: Oligoanalgesia is common in emergency practice. Major barriers for undertreatment of pain are lack of staff training in recognition, measurement and adequate pain treatment. Despite the global attention being given over the years, undertreatment of pain in the clinical practice is still prevalent.

Objective: The general objective of this study is to assess the pain treatment practice and its impact on patient satisfaction in the emergency department of Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital, July 15-19, 2019 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Methodology: Single cantered, prospective, observational study for a continuous 24 hours of 5 days was conducted on total of 106 patients with history of recent pain. Numeric Rating Scale was used to assess patient's severity of pain. Each patient was evaluated twice, initially at triage and 2-4 hours after arrival. The desire for analgesics was assessed at triage and Patient's level of satisfaction was also assessed during the second evaluation. Data was analysed with SPSS version 21

Results:

Out of 106 patients male account for 57.5% with M:F ratio of 1.3. The mean age of participants was 42.53years (SD=16.3). The majority of patients were having medial emergency followed by oncologic emergency and trauma. The mean initial numeric rating scale out of 10 was 5.88 (SD=2.09). The majority of patients, 77.4% (n=82) did not receive analgesics prior to emergency presentation, despite the fact that 57.5% (n=61) of them were referred by primary care taker. Desire for analgesics was found to be significantly associated with initial numeric rating score. Despite the fact that 80.2% (n=85) of the patients desired analgesia, it was prescribed only for 51%(n=54) patients and actually taken by only 41.5%(n=44) patients. The most common analgesics prescribed was tramadol (n=34) followed by morphine and paracetamol.

They majority, 68.87% (n=73) of patients reported overall satisfaction with pain treatment, despite the presence of 54% (n=52) undertreatment. Coming at day time and lower repeat numeric rating Scale has statistically significant association with overall satisfaction in pain treatment.

Conclusion and recommendation: There were a significant undertreatment of pain in the emergency department of Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital. Under recognition of pain by physicians and decision not to prescribe was the major reason patients didn't take analgesics. Despite that, patient satisfaction was good and repeat mean numeric rating score was also decreased.

Key words: *TASH, Numeric Rating Scale, Emergency Department, Pain Treatment, Pain satisfaction*