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Assessment of the Knowledge, Attitude, Practices, Perceived Barriers and Support Regarding Palliative and End of Life Care Among Critical Care Nurses at Tertiary Care Hospital, New Delhi, India

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Introduction: An inevitable life event in the life continuum is death. As, nurses form the most valuable palliative care team members, a critical factor influencing a successful delivery of palliative health care is nurses' knowledge and experiences, which determine their procedure as well as behavior during care of patients.

Method: A cross sectional study was conducted among 386 ICU nurses of tertiary care hospital, New Delhi, India, selected through convenient sampling technique. Data was collected during Aug-Dec '2018, using standardized tool for attitude and pre tested self structured tools for other variables, analyzed using SPSS.

Result: Findings showed that only 7% nurses have good knowledge, 36.5% have satisfactory practice whereas 88.1% have favorable attitude towards palliative and EOLC. Major barrier in providing palliative and EOLC was being called for attending to other newly admitted patients as reported by 61.7% nurses. Knowledge scores were significantly associated to their gender ($p=.016$) and training ($p=.001$). Practice scores were significantly associated with their qualification ($p=.021$). There was a significant association of nurses attitude with their age ($p=.038$), training ($p=.016$), qualification ($p=.002$), experience ($p=.025$) and ICU in which they work ($p=.016$). Age was negatively correlated to their attitude ($p=.014$) whereas attitude was positively correlated to the practice ($p=.001$).

Conclusion: There is a huge gap between nurse's knowledge and practices, inspite of having good attitude. Due attention should be given to make nurses more responsive to palliative and EOLC needs. Perceived barriers reported by ICU nurses should be addressed to move towards holistic nursing.

Biography

Anjani Walia is an Indian nurse, pursuing Msc nursing since 2017 at All India Institute of medical sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, India. She has completed her Bsc Nursing (2013-17) from AIIMS, Jodhpur and Rajasthan, India. She has got all India 2nd rank in Msc entrance examination. She has done poster presentation at National Nursing conference at Jodhpur, 2018 and awarded as 3rd best poster. She has also been selected as Nursing officer at AIIMS, New Delhi, India; VMMC, New Delhi, India; AIIMS, Rishikesh, India; ESIC Baddi, India