

دور الممرضات تجاه رعاية الأطفال في حالات الطوارئ

رسالة

توطئة للحصول على درجة الماجستير في علوم التمريض
(تمريض الأطفال)

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Role of Nurses Towards Care of Children in Emergency Situations

Thesis
Submitted for Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirement for the Master
Degree in
Pediatric Nursing

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Acknowledgment

Thanks to Allah who have lightened my path to become a humble student of a noble profession.

My sincere gratitude and appreciation to Professor Dr. Sabah Saad AL-Sharkawi, Prof. of Pediatric Nursing and Dean of Faculty of Nursing, Ain Shams University, for her kind help, constant encouragement, fruitful criticism and generous advice.

Words can never express my heart thanks to Dr. Orban Ragab Bayoumi, Lecturer of Pediatric Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Ain Shams University, for devoting much of her time, effort and generous advice for the completion of this work.

I would like to express my gratitude to all who helped me in fulfilling my responsibilities toward finishing this thesis include children, nurses staff and colleagues.

Abstract

The aim of the current descriptive study was to assess role of nurses regarding to the care of children in emergency situations. A sample of seventy nurses was included in the study from Emergency Departments and Medical & Surgical Departments at Children's Hospital affiliated to Ain Shams University Hospitals, as well as Suez Canal University Hospitals. Questionnaire format and observational check-lists were the study tools that used in collecting data by the researcher to assess nurses' knowledge and their actual performance regarding to care of children in emergency situations. Data were collected from January 2008 up to June 2008. The results of the current study revealed that less than half of the studied nurses had poor knowledge regarding the care of children in emergency situations. Meanwhile, less than half of nurses were incompetent performance as regards care of children in emergency situation. The results of the current study recommended that an in-service educational program and periodical training courses should be conducted for nurses in emergency units in order to update their knowledge and performance about care of children in emergency situations.

Key words: emergency, nurses, children

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List of Abbreviations

A	Airway
A&E	Accident and Emergency
AACCN	American Association of Critical Care Nurses
AAP	The American Academy of Pediatrics
ACEP	The American College of Emergency Physicians
AHA	American Heart Association
ALS	Advanced Life Support
APLS	Advanced Pediatric Life Support
B	Breathing
BVM	Bag-Valve-Mask
C	Circulation
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
DK	Diabetic Ketoacidosis
DM	Diabetes Mellitus
ED	Emergency Department
ENA	Emergency Nurses Association
ER	Emergency Room
EW	Emergency Ward
GED	General Emergency Department
IDDM	Insulin-Dependent-Diabetes Mellitus
IV	Intravenous
LR	Lactated Ringers
NIDDM	Non Insulin-Dependent-Diabetes Mellitus
NINDS	The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
NS	Normal Saline
NSCIA	National Spinal Cord Injury Association
PALS	Pediatric Advanced Life Support
PAT	Pediatric Assessment Triangle
PBLS	Pediatric Basic Life Support
PED	Pediatric Emergency Department
SVR	The Systemic Vascular Resistance
TBSA	Total Body Surface Area

Introduction

Children and adolescents are a unique group of emergency patients. They have special needs and problems that are different from those of adults. Every day children of all ages are exposed to accidents and suffering numerous types of injuries. It is essential when caring for children during an emergency medical situation understanding of the developmental stages from infancy to adolescence. Consequently time is critical and children's chances of survival are greatly improved if emergency care begins immediately and quickly (**Wertz, 2001; Young & Seidel, 2006**).

Emergency situation is a problem that range from minor to catastrophic. This wide variation in severity is compounded by the large number of possible situations that may be encountered, ranging from minor laceration to traumatic death (**Black et al., 2001**). Additionally, the emergency continues until the condition is stable or no longer threatens the child's integrity or well-being and emergency situation can occur any where. Therefore, it is important to have the basic knowledge and skills needed for rapid assessment, intervention, and safe management of emergencies (**Tuite, 2004**).

Injury or illness becomes an emergency situation when life is threatened, suffering occurs or problems develop. During this time one depends on the other for their help. Emergency care is the full range of procedures and services given to a person who has been

Introduction & Aim of the study

injured or suddenly becomes ill. It begins with first aid and includes emergency transportation, emergency medical care and follow-up care. The care of the ill or injured pediatric patient requires specialized skills and equipment. This care often extends beyond the emergency department to the operating room, intensive care unit, and other inpatient units (**Hoekelman et al., 2002**).

As mentioned by **Department of Health and Human Services (2006)** that, in 2005 there were 108 million emergency department visits, with 21.7 % visits by children younger than 15 years, and additional 16.4 % visits were by adolescents and young adults 15 to 24 years old. These data are supported by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), which reports that, across the United State of America, about one third of ED patients per year are children. On national level, Egypt is still suffering from a high mortality rate of children under five. The cause of death was mainly from curable diseases such as respiratory infections and diarrhea (**Egyptian Atlas of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, 2006**).

Emergency nursing is the nursing care provided to prevent imminent, severe damage or death or to avert serious injury. The nurse's role during an emergency is a very important one. The nurses' role is based on first contact with the child that included assessment, calling for help, and treating the life-threatening conditions. The nurse in the hospital setting will perform immediate and long-term activities to return the child to optimal health (**Bledsone & Benner, 2006**).

Introduction & Aim of the study

Pediatric emergency nurses must have the ability to; work quickly and efficiently; continuously prioritize child care; flexible and energetic and communicate effectively. The nurse must be able to intervene with families in grief, perform crisis intervention, diffuse volatile situations and teach children and families expectations of care (**Kitt, 2000**). Additionally, the nurse may carry out various procedures including; administration of medications, catheterization, suctioning, and oxygen therapy. Meanwhile, she must be able to work as a team member to practice autonomously with collaboration of the physician and health care team, as well must have technical skills, and be knowledgeable regarding to the rapid change in this highly critical care (**Kathleen & Mclain, 2007**).

Aim of the study

This study aimed at assessing the role of nurses regarding the care of children in emergency situations.

Research Questions

- Are nurses have adequate knowledge and competent performance in the pediatric emergency situations?
- Is there a relationship between nurses' knowledge about pediatric emergency and their performance?
- Are the nurses well trained for pediatric emergencies?