

**Knowledge and Practice of Mothers Regarding
their Children suffering from Febrile
Convulsion.**

Thesis

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

BY

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Name of abbreviations
%	Percent
1 st	First
3 rd	Third
AAP	American Academy of Pediatrics
C	Celsius
CFC	Complex Febrile Convulsion
CNS	Central Nervous System
CRP	C-Reactive Protein
CT	Computed Tomography
DHA	Department of Health Australia
EDs	Emergency Departments
EEG	Electroencephalography
FC	Febrile Convulsion
FSE	Febrile Status Epileptics
ID	Iron Deficiency
ILAE	International League Against Epilepsy
IV	Intravenous
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
LP	Lumber Puncture
MMRV	Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
NIH	National Institute of Health
PEWS	Pediatric Early Warning Score
SFC	Simple Febrile Convulsion

List of Abbreviation

Abstract

Febrile convulsion was convulsion usually related to viral illness that occurs between the age of 6 and 60 months with a temperature of 38C or higher, that are not the result of central nervous system infection or any metabolic imbalance. **Aim:** This study aimed to assess knowledge and reported practice of mothers regarding their children with febrile convulsion. **Research design:** A descriptive design was used to conduct this study. **Research setting:** This study was conducted at Pediatric Hospital affiliated to Tanta University Hospital. **Research subject:** A purposive sample of 50 mothers accompanied with their children suffering from febrile convulsion. **Tools of data collection:** An Interviewing Questionnaire Sheet to assess knowledge and reported practice of studied mothers about febrile convulsion. **Results:** the study revealed that, more than half of the studied mothers had unsatisfactory knowledge about febrile convulsion and more than two thirds of them had unsatisfactory reported practice regarding their children suffering from febrile convulsion. **Conclusion:** It can be concluded that, the mothers had unsatisfactory knowledge and unsatisfactory reported practice regarding their children suffering from febrile convulsion. **Recommendation:** Implementation of training programs at pediatric hospital to improve mothers' knowledge and practice.

Key words: Febrile Convulsion, Mother's knowledge, Mother's practice.

Introduction

Febrile Convulsions (FC) are the most common neurologic disorder of infants and children through 6 to 60 months of age, occurring in 2 to 5 percent of children younger than six years of age and are usually associated with fever (a temperature greater than 38 °C) but without evidence of intracranial infection, if convulsion lasts more than 5 minutes, complications such as mental disability, hemiplegia and death will threaten children's life (**kliegman et al., 2016**).

Febrile convulsions are described as 'simple' or 'complex'. A simple febrile convulsion lasts less than 15 minutes, generalized, tonic-clonic seizure and does not happen again during the same illness, while a complex febrile convulsion lasts longer than 15 minutes, affects only one side or part of the body and recurs within 24 hours or during the same illness (**Hampers and Spina, 2011**).

Males have consistently emerged as having a higher frequency of febrile convulsion (male to female ratio 2:1). There are two seasonal peaks in febrile convulsion incidence: November- January, corresponding to the peak of viral upper respiratory infection and June-August, when

common bacterial gastrointestinal illnesses occur (**Xixis and Duleboh, 2018**).

An important role of the pediatric nurse is to provide family support; change parental attitudes and self-management of children with febrile convulsion. Whether the febrile convulsion result from illness, the parents may feel guilt, anxiety, and even humiliation. It is important for the nurse to help the parents feel competent in their ability to meet their responsibility regarding their children. Educational programs should be implemented continuously among families having children with febrile convulsion, who need to be constantly equipped with up-to-date knowledge. Thus the nurse could play a crucial role in improving the knowledge and management of febrile convulsion through implementation of febrile convulsion education programme utilizing an available resources (**Wedro, 2018**).

Significance of the Study

Febrile convulsion (FC) is the most common convulsion worldwide among children, it is affecting 3% to 7% of all children and affecting 15.3% in Africa. The peak age for FC is 18 to 22 months with arrange between 6 months and 5 years (**Silbert et al., 2011 and Jarrett et al., 2012**).

Febrile convulsion can cause a certain degree of brain damage in children with younger age at first onset of febrile convulsion. These children have less mature nervous system, less perfect myelination, and higher sensitivity to hypoxia, ischemia, and acidosis and are more likely to have the recurrence of febrile convulsion. More recurrence times, more severe damages in hippo-campal neurons and longer duration of convulsion can cause more severe brain injury (**El-Naggar, 2009 and Swierzewski, 2015**).

The study will be undertaken to assess the mothers' knowledge and reported practice regarding their children suffering from FC.

Aim of the Study

This study aimed to assess knowledge and practice of mothers regarding their children with FC.

Research Questions

- 1- What are the knowledge of mothers regarding their children suffering from FC?
- 2- What are the reported practices of mothers regarding their children suffering from FC?

Review of Literature

Part I: An Overview about Febrile Convulsion

Fever is one of the most concerning issues in public health, which occurs fairly frequently and is a precursor for the occurrence of seizure in childhood. Febrile convulsions are a common pediatric problem worldwide; they can be frightening, emotionally traumatic and anxiety provoking for parents. Appropriate knowledge and home management of febrile convulsion is needed to lessen the parental anxiety apprehension **(Onankpa and Oche, 2016)**.

A febrile convulsion known as a fever fit or febrile seizure is a convulsion associated with a significant rise in body temperature. This most commonly occur in children between the ages of 6 months to 6 years and are twice as common in boys as in girls .It affects up to 1 in 20 children between the ages of one and four years but can affect children between six months and about five years old **(Deepika and Vipin, 2017)**.

Febrile convulsion is a common cause of seizure in childhood. It is commonly associated with fever of over 38C arising from infection or inflammation outside the central nervous system in a child who is otherwise neurologically normal. Febrile