

SUMMARY

Postpartum period is a period of 6-8 weeks following delivery in which the majority of maternal physiologic and psychologic changes of pregnancy revert to their non pregnant state. Therefore, caring of women during postpartum is very important to meet the women need & expectations.

The first 24 hours postpartum & the first postpartum week is the high risk of postpartum death, and the risk remains significant until the second week after delivery. 80% of postpartum deaths caused by hemorrhage, pregnancy induced hypertension complications and obstetric infection. Despite the importance of this period, woman's care during postpartum has not received great attention.

Nowadays, the word quality seems to be the focus and the theme of every discipline, and several approaches have been used to improve the quality of nursing care. There are three classic frame works from which nursing care can be evaluated, namely structure, process, and outcome. Each of these interacting elements contributes to the quality of nursing care. Furthermore, an improvement in any element is likely to produce favorable changes in the other two.

The new technology in reproductive health field tends to increase the quality of performance which must be based on clear standards to guide nursing performance. This actually has a great impact on mortality and morbidity. So, assessment the quality of nursing performance during I.P.P.P. using standards of care during this period is very important in order to ensure high quality nursing care in the nurses practice.

Summary

The present study aimed to assess nurse's knowledge about the quality of nursing performance toward immediate postpartum women with normal delivery and evaluate their performance during immediate postpartum period.

The study included (40) nurses working in Obstetric Wards at Benha University Hospital & (150) postpartum mothers (50 mother from each shift), selected according to certain criteria.

The data collection tools consisted of two sheets, the first tool was an interviewing questionnaire sheet for nurses used to assess their knowledge & involved demographic characteristics of nurses, open ended questions about physiological and psychological changes during the immediate postpartum period and quality of nursing performance during this period.

The second tool was observation checklist sheet which used to evaluate the Nursing performance consists of standards for nursing performance during immediate postpartum period. This sheet involved demographic characteristics of postpartum mothers, structure of postpartum unit, standardized nursing care for immediate postpartum period.

Pilot study was performed after the questionnaires were tested by experts in this field. Necessary modifications were done. Data collected by the researcher after a brief explanation about the purposes of the study. Data analysis was done using appropriate tests.

Summary

The main findings of the study revealed a lack of nurses' knowledge related to most aspects of immediate postpartum care and it was noticed that as the experience years of nurses increased the level of their knowledge increased, it also revealed, drop of nursing performance where the level of quality nursing performance in the morning was 30.6% , 26.9% in the afternoon and 26.6% at the night shift.

The study recommended that an inservice educational program should be carried out for nurses about the quality of nursing performance during I.P.P.P. Nursing standards for immediate postpartum care must be followed in order to improve quality of care systematic and continuous supervision by qualified clinical supervisors to ensure quality of nursing performance is maintained, on the other hand, the study stresses on the importance of an appropriate structure in quality acheivement, so it is recommended to put in plan, improve the structure of the unit through special room for postpartum women & their babies characterized by cleanness, good illumination & ventilation and provided by adequate furnitures, equipments , supplies and medications in order to meet mother's needs.