SUMMARY

Infection is an invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in the body tissue that result in cellular damage. Infection occurs as a result of a cyclic process.

Infection control is a practice directed toward preventing nosocomial infection to the patients, protecting the health care workers from disease transmission and other people in the health care setting.

Basic principles of infection control are based on the use of practices and procedures that prevent or reduce the likelihood of infection being transmitted from contaminated body fluids or equipment. They should be followed by all staff involved in health care centers.

Nurses have played a major role in preventing infectious diseases .The nurse in labor and delivery unit is a very important member of the health care team, because the nurse often is the caregiver who spends the most time with the laboring woman.

The present study aims to assess the infection control measures practiced by nurses in the labor & delivery unit at Benha university hospital and Benha teaching hospital.

The study was conducted on all available nurses in the labor and delivery units (17 nurses) are working at Benha university hospital and (16 nurses) are working at Benha teaching hospital. The sample is convenient sample.

Tools of data collection:-

(1) Interviewing questionnaire for nurse's include

- General characteristics of sample
- Nurses knowledge regarding infection control measures

(2) Observation checklist sheet to assess the nurses practice regarding Application of infection control measures.

As regard nurses total level of knowledge the majority of them has correct knowledge (60.6%) about all infection control measures, meanwhile their total level of practice is incorrect (78.8%). This indicates that there is a negative correlation between practice and knowledge .it is assumed that the most of samples are young age, knowledge may be easily gained and nurse's interest to learn and acquire knowledge. But performance needs training, facilities, supplies and equipments.

The result of the present study shows a negative correlation between knowledge about all infection control measures and age, years of experience and qualification and Positive correlation between nursing practice and duration of training.

There was significant difference between two hospitals; the nurses in university hospital were more skillful than nurses in teaching hospital in the gloving, vein puncture and decontamination of the instruments while the nurses in teaching hospital were more skillful than university hospital in preparing and maintaining sterile field, sterilization by autoclave, and traffic flow of articles. Insignificant difference is found in other procedures such as hand washing, gowning and masking in teaching and university hospitals.

The study recommended implementing periodical training program for the nursing staff to improve their knowledge and skills, regarding the application of infection control measures as well as providing nurses with Arabic books about infection control measures as universal precautions and standard precautions.

The proper supervision must be continuously performed regard application of infection control measures in the labour and Delivery Room. Also the standards of infection control measures must be available in all labor and delivery units and all nurses must be aware about them and stick to them in their practices.