

## **Summary**

Head injury in children is a major health problem in the world and considered more dangerous in our society and a count for one of the most expensive health problem in world, involving the annual hospitalization for head injury of about 100.000 children under 20 years of age. Head injury is the leading cause of death in children especially from 2 year to 14 year resulting in approximately 7000 deaths yearly in Egypt. Nurses play an important role in nursing care of children with head injury. The pediatric nurse should be advise or supervise as well as to give the most care for children during the period of hospitalization, act as a mother substituted for children in the hospital. The important nursing roles for the child with head injury include good observation of the children during measuring of level of consciousness (Glassgow Coma Scale and Score), monitoring of vital signs, giving medications and giving support to the children and their parents.

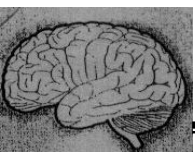
### **Aim of the study:**

To assess the nurses' knowledge about children with head injury and assess the current nursing care given to children with head injury.

### **Research Setting:**

The study was conducted at Benha university hospital and Benha teaching hospital.

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**Subjects:**

The subject consisted of all nurses working at the previously mentioned (total 100 nurses).

**Tools of data collection:**

**Tools of data collection including the following:**

**(I) Interviewing questionnaire:**

It was designed by the researcher after reviewing related literature. It was written in an Arabic language in the form of open ended questions and close questions.

**It composed of 5 parts:**

**Part “1”:** Socio-demographic data of nurses (age in year, qualifications and years of experience).

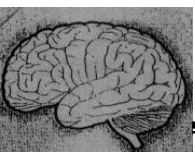
**Part “2”:** Nurses knowledge about structure of the head (structure of head, incidence and prevalence of head injury).

**Part “3”:** Nurses knowledge about head injury (concept, types, causes, clinical manifestation, complication, effect, investigation, treatment, rehabilitation and nutrition).

**Part “4”:** Factors affecting the nursing care of nurses (age, behaviour, resources, experience).

**Part “5”:** Factors affecting the daily living activities (attendance school, self esteem, nutrition).

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**(II) Observation check list:**

It was designed by the researcher and reviewed by supervisors to observe the actual nursing care given for children during measuring of level of consciousness, intravenous therapy, measuring of vital signs and blood pressure.

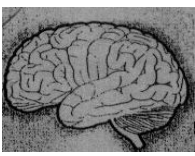
**Pilot Study:**

A pilot study was carried out during January 2008 to February 2008, to test the applicability of the tools, it was applied randomly on 10 nurses. The result of the data obtained from the pilot study helped in modification of the tools items were then corrected and necessary changes were introduced as revealed from pilot study such as adding question about source of nurses information about children with head injury.

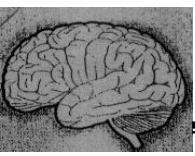
**Results:**

Regarding the results of the current study. The main findings of the study can be summarized as the following:

- As regards nurses age, it was found that the mean age is  $27.6 \pm 7.3$  years.
  - The mean years of experience was  $5.8 \pm 4.1$  years.
  - In relation to nurses qualifications, it was found that 60% of them had secondary nursing education, 15% of them had B.Sc. nursing and 5% of them had nursing school and specialty, 20% of them had institute of nursing.
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- The study reported 75 % did not attend any training programs in care of children with head injury.
  - 57% and 38% of nurses had poor knowledge about structure of the head and incidence respectively.
  - Nurses had poor knowledge about concept of head injury.
  - 50% of nurses had good knowledge about causes of head injury.
  - 63% and 45% of nurses had poor knowledge about moderate and severe manifestations respectively and 52% of nurses had good knowledge about mild manifestations.
  - 63% of nurses had good knowledge about needs child with head injury.
  - 75% of nurses had poor knowledge about rehabilitation.
  - 76% of nurses had poor knowledge about factor affecting of daily living activities.
  - 91% and 92% of nurses competent in measuring the blood pressure and the heart rate respectively, while 93% and 92% of them were incompetent in measuring the temperature and the respiratory rate respectively.
  - Nurses were incompetent during measuring Glas GOW Coma Scale and Score.
  - The present study revealed, that there was statistical significant correlation between nurse knowledge and their performance.
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- The present study revealed, that there was highly statistical significant difference between nurse knowledge and their characteristic.
- The present study revealed, that there was statistical insignificant difference between nurses skills and their characteristics.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the majority of nurses had poor knowledge and incompetent practices as regarding the care of children with head injury, therefore, much efforts should be made to improve the quality of nursing skills during care of children with head injury. This could be achieved by increasing the awareness of nurses about standards of nursing skills during care of children with head injury.

### **Recommendations:**

In the light of findings of the current study, the following recommendations are suggested.

1. In service training program is an essential for continues updating nurses knowledge and skills about care of children with head injury.
  2. orientation programs for newly recruited nurses who work in emergency units is recommended.
  3. staff nurse should be obligatory attained periodically in service and training programs.
  4. standardized nursing procedure should be use to guide the nurses in dealing with children suffering from head injury.
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