

SUMMARY

Haemodialysis can be a life saving measure but, there is no doubt that HD associated complications contribute directly to further morbidity & mortality. A significant portion of these complications may be preventable with appropriate nursing intervention. The nurse has a vital role to play, involving a wide range of nursing intervention in the prevention and management of HD complications. These interventions include continuous assessment of patient condition, as well as assuming the responsibility to carry out preventive measures and take prompt actions when necessary.

Aim of the study:

The aim of this study was to assess nurse's performance in controlling complications for patients undergoing haemodialysis.

Research questions:

To fulfill the aim of this study, *three research questions* were formulated:

- 1- Does the nurse have satisfactory knowledge related to controlling complications for patients undergoing haemodialysis?
- 2- Does the nurse have adequate practice related to controlling complications for patients undergoing haemodialysis?
- 3- Does the nurse have positive attitude related to controlling complications for patients undergoing haemodialysis?

Research Design:

A descriptive design was selected for the current study.

Subjects:

The current study included all available nurses (60) based on identified criteria and all of them working in haemodialysis units.

Setting:

The study was conducted in dialysis units at Benha university hospital & Benha teaching hospital.

Tools for data collection:

- 1- Interview questionnaire sheet about nurses' knowledge (Appendix I)
- 2- Likert scale to assess nurses' attitude toward patients undergoing haemodialysis (Appendix II).
- 3- Observational checklist (Appendix III) which is divided into 2 parts:

Part I: Observational checklist for nurses' practice in haemodialysis Unit (routine care).

Part II: Observational checklist for nurses' practice in managing complications during haemodialysis.

A pilot study was carried out on (6) nurses working in HD units. Based on the result of pilot study and the revision of the tools by (9) expertise in the medical surgical nursing specialty, the necessary modifications and changes on the tools were done.

The main results of the study:

- Concerning nurses working in HD units, half of them (50%) aged between (20-<30) years old and the majority (88.33%) of them were diploma nurses.

- As regards to nurses' knowledge, results revealed that, all of nurses had satisfactory level of knowledge related to anatomy of urinary system, kidney function, types of renal failure, care of fistula site before the session, indications of giving heparin , and the majority of the studied sample had a satisfactory level of knowledge related to complications of HD. Also, it was found that, the majority of the nurses had satisfactory level of knowledge related to nursing care given to patients undergoing HD.
- Investigating nurse's attitude toward HD patients, the majority of the nurses had positive attitude toward the patients undergoing HD.
- In relation to nurses' practice, the majority of nurses had adequate level of practice related to preparation of the equipment before HD session. However, the entire studied sample had adequate level of practice in relation to patient's preparation regarding weighing the patient before & after the session, measuring BP every ½ hour, and comparing the patient's body weight with his DW. Moreover, less than half of the studied sample monitor the patients during hemodialysis session for vital signs and prepare emergency supplies, and less than one quarter applies principles of infection control before HD session. Also, the entire studied sample had adequate level regarding to finishing HD session
- As regards management of HD complications, slightly more than one third of the studied sample had adequate level regarding management of HD complications.
- There were no statistically significant relation between nurses' attitude, practice, knowledge and their sociodemographic characteristics except the relation between nurses' knowledge and their marital status, there were statistically significant relation.

-There were highly statistically significant relation between nurses' residence and their management during complications. Also, there were statistically significant relations between nurses' income, age, and years of experience in relation to their management during complications. While, there were no statistically significant relation between nurses' level of education, occupation, marital status in relation to their management during complications.

- Results of this study proved that nurses had satisfactory level of knowledge, adequate level of practice, positive attitude toward their patients. While, they showed many areas of deficit in their skills regarding management of HD complications.

Based on the previous results, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Periodic supervision should be adopted for nurses whom working in HD units to guarantee adequate performance.
2. An educational programs and in-service training courses should be provided to nursing staff working in HD unit to enhance their skills about nursing care for HD patients (before – during and after session).
3. Improving nurses' practice to fit and meet all patients' needs by holding periodic training courses, and continuous supervision.
4. To prevent occurrence of infection, infection control programs should be provided to nurses to be applied during HD session.
5. Patients' awareness regarding how to deal with HD complications should be improved by holding periodic teaching sessions for them, designing instructional booklet that explains the ways of dealing with complications that could be happened for them at any time outside HD unit.

6. Further studies about nurses' performance in HD units should be done on larger numbers of both nurses & patients.
7. Developing a study about the effect of an educational nursing program on improving their performance.