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## SUMMARY

Diabetic foot is one of the most common complications of diabetes which result in foot ulcers and amputations that are considered major causes of morbidity, disability and mortality among diabetic patients as well as emotional and physical costs. (*Gawish, 2008*).

Nurses play an important role in management of diabetic foot disease. The nurses who care of diabetic foot patients should cover all aspects of diabetic foot care, pathophysiology, causes, risk factors and methods of prevention of diabetic foot disease, as well as principles of nursing care and special procedures needed for this type of disease. Assessment of nurses' performance can play an important role in evaluating the qualities of nursing care that done for diabetic foot patients. Therefore this study will be carried out in order to assess degree of nurses' knowledge and their practice regarding to care for diabetic foot patients to identify strength and weakness points in their performance.

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

The current study aimed to assess nurses' performance caring for patients with diabetic foot.

### **Subject and methods:**

#### ***Research design:***

A descriptive exploratory study was utilized to meet the aim of this study.

#### ***Research setting:***

The study was conducted at the surgical departments at two settings at Benha governorate: university hospital and teaching hospital.

**Research subjects:**

Convenience sample composed of all available nurses (60) who are actually working as a bed side nurses in general surgical departments at Benha University and teaching hospital, and agree to participate in the study.

**Tools of data collection:**

*Data were collected through using the following tools:*

**I. an interviewing questionnaire sheet:**

It was concerned with assessment of nurses' knowledge regarding diabetes mellitus disease and diabetic foot. These tools included two parts:

**Part (A)**

Concerned with demographic data for the study nurses.

**Part (B)**

It was concerned with assessment of the following:

- 1- Nurses' knowledge related to diabetes mellitus disease.
- 2- Nurses' knowledge about diabetic foot.
- 3- Problems that face the nurses during providing nursing care for patients with diabetic foot.

**II. An observational checklist:**

It was used to assess level of nurses' practice regarding to diabetic foot care procedures. It included the following parts:

- 1- Checklist about diabetic foot care
- 2- Checklist about diabetic foot wound care.

## Results

Finding that were obtained from the current study can be summarized as the following:

- Regarding nurses' total knowledge about diabetes mellitus and diabetic foot, it was found that the majority of the studied group (78.3%) had good knowledge about diabetes mellitus and diabetic foot while, the minority of them (1.7%) had poor knowledge.
- As regards nurses' total practice it was found that, more than one half (55%) of the studied nurses were implemented actual procedure of diabetic foot care incompletely, while the minority of them (3.3%) were implemented it completely.
- There were statistical significant relationship ( $p < 0.05$ ) between nurses demographic data and nurses' total knowledge.
- There were statistical significant relations ( $p < 0.05$ ) between nurses socio demographic data and their total practice that done for diabetic foot patients.
- There was a highly statistically significant and positive correlation ( $r = 0.478$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) between nurses' total knowledge and their total practice.

## Conclusion

In the light of the study findings, it might be concluded that, nurses have shown inadequate knowledge in risk factors, causes of diabetes mellitus, normal range of random blood glucose, risk factors, causes and signs & symptoms of diabetic foot. The study also concluded that, all nurses didn't do the procedure of diabetic foot care. However slightly less than quarters were completely done procedure of diabetic foot wound care. Also, it has been found from this study that, the minimum level of total nurses' practice who performed diabetic foot care procedures were done completely and right.

## Recommendations:

*In the light of the results of the current study the following recommendation are suggested:*

- Continuous evaluation of nurses' knowledge and practices is essential to identify nurses' needs and assess the quality of nursing care that done for diabetic foot patients.
- Continuous and updated inservice educational programs must be held for all nurses working in general surgical units regarding to nursing care for patients with diabetic foot to revise, acquire and develop nurses' knowledge and performance and the impact of this programs should be evaluated.
- Simple illustrated booklets, pamphlets, posters and hand outs should be available to all nursing personnel working in general surgical units especially those caring for patients with diabetic foot as a reference for nursing actions and they should prepared by a specialized team with updated knowledge and practices.