

**A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE REGARDING
PREVENTION ON INFECTION IN PATIENTS WITH BURN INJURIES**

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ABSTRACT:

Study Objective: To Evaluate nurses' knowledge and practice for prevention of infection among patients with burn injuries. **Study Design:** A descriptive cross sectional study was used for this research. The study included nurses who were working in the burn unit and providing care to patients with burn injuries. 48 staff nurses are selected as sample who is working in the different hospitals of vadodara city. Self structured questionnaire was used to evaluate the knowledge of nurses and observational checklist was used to evaluate the practice. **Results:** Females constituted 100% of study participants. 62.5% of nurses had a GNM whilst 37.5 % had a Nursing degree. 73% (35) of participants had less than 2 years of experience working in the Burns Unit. Knowledge regarding infection control was received by 89% of nurses but their source of information was practice not in-service educational programs. Consequently they had unsatisfactory level of knowledge and practices indicated by knowledge and practice score less than 75%. **Conclusion:** The findings of the current study revealed nurses' low level of knowledge and practices.

Keywords: Burn, Nurses, infection control, Knowledge, Practice.

INTRODUCTION

Burn injuries are among the most distressful trauma and a considerable public health issue all over the world¹. Approximately 180,000 deaths occur by burn every year estimated by world health organization (WHO) in 2018. These burn injuries extensively occur in low income and middle income countries, in the same way death rate is higher in low income countries as compared to high income countries. Burns could also leading to many disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) lost in low and middle-income countries². WHO has reported much higher

incidence in Pakistan approximately 1388/100000 annually as compared to global incidence of 110/100000 per annum³. Furthermore, Empiric Antimicrobial therapy is not recommended to treat fever because most of the time these patients have fever just because of the systemic inflammatory response to burn⁴.

It was also estimated that about 75% of the mortality among burn patients related to sepsis which is dangerous body response to infection⁵.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Descriptive Cross-sectional design was used for this study. The study was conducted in burn units of selected hospitals of Vadodara city, Gujarat. Total 48 staff nurses working in the burns unit were selected as a samples who were providing data. Data collection tool include self structured questionnaire and observational checklist. Questionnaire was used to evaluate the knowledge and checklist was used to observe practice.

FINDINGS

Fig 1 demonstrates percentage distribution of study sample according to their performance scores. It indicates that 0 (0%) out of 48 nurses have satisfactory level of performance (75%-100%), however 48 (100%) out of 48 nurses have unsatisfactory performance level (<75%).

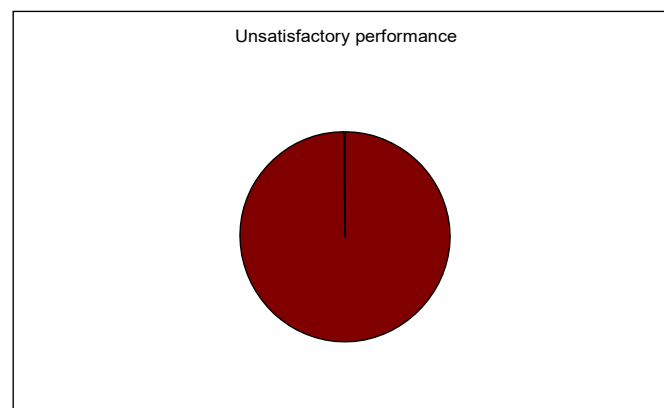
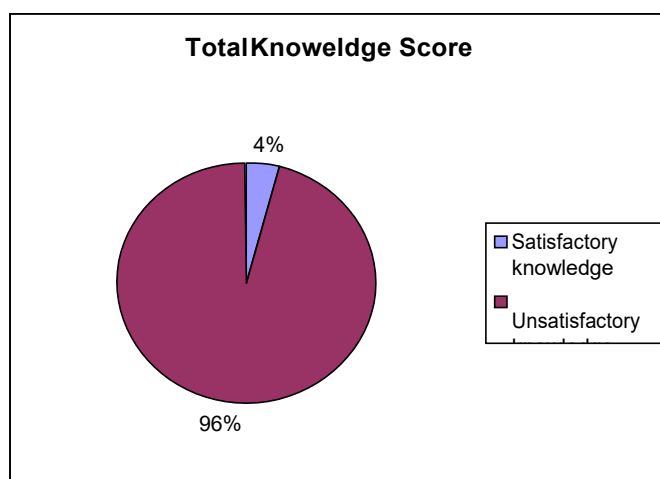


Fig 2 presents the percentage distribution of studied sample according to their knowledge for preventing Infections among burn patients. It clarifies that 46 (95%) out of 48 nurses have Unsatisfactory level of knowledge (<75%), However 2 (4%) nurses have Satisfactory level of knowledge (75% - 100%).



DISCUSSION

The findings emerged from the data are that nurses in study areas have insufficient knowledge and practice about infection control in burn patients. However, they received information through practice but in-service education programs need to develop to prepare nurses for prevention of infection.

Nurses' knowledge of infection control has fundamental role in preventing hospital acquired infections among burn patients. As majority of study participants received information regarding prevention of infection, the finding of current study showed low level of knowledge among nurses as indicated by the low percentages of accurate responses. The finding showed that 96% (n=48) has unsatisfactory level of knowledge indicated by satisfactory knowledge score 75% -100%. These findings are comparable to Atalla et al. work on compliance of nurses with infection control polices concluded that participants had low-level regarding infection control guidelines⁶. In contrast nurses' knowledge about guidelines for preventing burn related infections was adequate (90%) but in contrary knowledge of participants regarding burn (definition, causes & calculation of burn area) and nosocomial infection in burn unit was low⁷.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that nurses working in burn units have low knowledge and practices regarding prevention of Infections among burn patients. Therefore, hospitals are required to organize adequate trainings and to develop unit specific clinical infection control guidelines and protocols.

Ethical approval

Informed consent was obtained from participants and assured for anonymity. Since the study involved human subjects, a formal ethical approval was received from institutional ethical committee.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares that they have no conflicts of interest.

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