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Knowledge of cardiology nurses regarding care of patients with permanent pacemakers and implantable cardioverter defibrilators in Karachi, Pakistan

Faisal Ameen
Tabba Heart Institute, Pakistan

Nurses' knowledge plays a vital role in terms of providing care of patients with permanent pacemaker and implantable cardioverter defibrillators. It is increasingly recognized that the patient with implanted PPMs or ICDs are a real challenge, especially when they require long term care. Adequate knowledge of nurses about the care of PPMs & ICDs, improves accuracy in measurement of parameters, assists in setting realistic goals and making clinically wise decisions, and improves their overall performance. However, as per researcher's knowledge this study has never been conducted in Pakistan. The aim of the present study is to assess nurses' knowledge regarding care of patients with PPMs and ICDs. Furthermore the study aimed to explore the knowledge level between novice and expert nurses, nurses having different level of professional qualification, nurses having dip card and those who do not have dip card, and between male and female nurses. A descriptive cross sectional study design was conducted, total 139 study participants were enroll in this study from the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) , and Tabba Heart Institute (THI) Karachi, Pakistan. The data was collected, between April and June 2016, through structured questionnaire to assess nurses' knowledge regarding care of patients with PPM and ICDs. The tool was divided into three parts background knowledge, post procedure care and post procedure and patient education, further, tool made by the researcher according to Pakistani culture and context. Data was analyzed on SPSS version19, T- Test for two independent samples and, One-way ANOVA used for data analysis purpose. The current study revealed that, 26.6% study participants had higher knowledge regarding care of patients with PPMs and ICDs, 64% of the study participants had moderate level of knowledge, whereas, 9.4% of the study participants had poor level of knowledge. The current study also found a significant difference between novice and expert nurses.

ursfaisal_83@hotmail.com

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