A Study to Assess the Knowledge of Staff Nurses Regarding Immediate Post-Operative Management of Patients Who Have Undergone 'Commando' Surgery in Cancer Hospital and Institute in Lucknow U.P

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ABSTRACT

Background & Objectives

Oral cancer falls under the broader category of head and neck cancers and can arise in any area of the oral cavity or oropharynx. Most oral cancers originate in the tongue and the floor of the mouth.

The term 'COMMANDO operation' refers to an extensive surgical procedure for head and neck cancers, involving the total removal of the mandible, mouth floor, and neck lymphatic system. Post-surgery, patients may experience significant loss of oro-pharyngeal functions, often necessitating reconstructive plastic surgery to restore these functions.

Objectives:

➢ To assess the knowledge of staff nurses about the immediate post-operative care of patients who have undergone a COMMANDO procedure.
➢ To examine the relationship between the nurses' knowledge of immediate post-operative care for COMMANDO patients and demographic factors.

Method

The investigator chose a sample of 60 staff nurses using purposive sampling, a non-probability sampling method where participants are selected based on the researcher's judgement of their representativeness or usefulness. The planned data analyses included descriptive statistics such as percentage, mean, and standard deviation, and inferential statistics such as the Chi-square test. The Chi-square test was used to determine the association between demographic variables and the knowledge scores.

Results

The reliability of the questionnaire was determined using the split-half method, yielding a coefficient of r = 0.85. A pilot study involving six staff nurses was conducted to ensure the study's feasibility and practicality, laying the groundwork for the main research. The actual study was carried out with 60 staff nurses at the Lucknow Cancer Institute and Hospital over the period from 9 May–23 May 2022. Using a range of descriptive and inferential statistical tests, the knowledge levels of the staff nurses were assessed and found to be highly significant. However, there was no significant correlation between knowledge levels and demographic variables, with the findings being statistically insignificant at the 0.05 level.

Conclusion

Nurses play a crucial role in delivering care, preventing infection, and facilitating rapid recovery. Assessing nurses' knowledge of immediate post-operative management for these patients is vital, because it can enhance the quality of care in the relevant areas.

KEYWORDS: *Assess; knowledge; staff nurse; post-operative management; COMMANDO surgery*

1. INTRODUCTION

Cancer is a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. If the spread is not controlled, it can result in death.1 Cancer is caused by both external factors (tobacco, infectious organisms, chemicals, and radiation) and internal factors (inherited mutations, hormones, immune conditions, and mutations that occur from metabolism).2

NEED OF THE STUDY:

Oral cancer is the most common cancer in India and according to Dr Geoff Craig "People are dying of oral cancer because of ignorance"3.

No population-based screening programs for oral cancers have been implemented in developed countries, although "opportunistic screening" has been advocated. There are different methods of screening for oral cancers. Oral cancer occurs in a region of the body that is generally accessible to physical examination by the patient, the dentist, and the physician, and visual examination is the most common method used to detect visible lesions. Other methods have been used to augment clinical detection of oral lesions and include toluidine blue, brush biopsy, and fluorescence staining.4

An oral examination often includes looking for leukoplakia and erythroplastic lesions, which can progress to cancer. One recent study has shown that direct fluorescence visualization (using a simple hand-held device) could identify subclinical high-risk fields with cancerous or precancerous changes in the oral mucosa. However, this finding has not yet been tested in a screening setting. Recent data suggest that molecular markers may be useful as markers of prognosis for these premalignant oral lesions.5

Although it is possible to detect and cure early-stage oral cancers, most oral cancers are moderately advanced (regional stage) at the time of diagnosis. Unfortunately, this pattern has not changed over time.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

➢ To assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding immediate post-operative management of patients who have undergone COMMANDO

➢ To observe the association between the knowledge of staff nurse regarding immediate post-operative management of patients who have undergone COMMANDO & demographic variables

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

H1: there will be significant association between knowledge with socio demographic variables of staff nurses.

H0: there will be no significant association between knowledge with socio demographic variables of staff nurses.

ASSUMPTIONS:

➢ Nurses working in oncological unit (PACU, ICU) will have some knowledge regarding immediate post-operative COMMANDO care.

➢ Knowledge may vary with the selected demographic variables.

DELIMITATIONS:

➢ The study is limited to staff nurses working in post-operative ward in cancer hospital;-

● Class - B.Sc. Nursing, GNM,

● Sex - Both male & female

● Age - 21-60 yrs

DEVELOPMENT & DESCRIPTION OF TOOLS:

The study is aimed to evaluate the knowledge & practice skills of staff nurses regarding post-operative care of commando patients.

The following instrument tools were developed in order to generate data.

1. Demographic data

2. A structured knowledge questionnaire to assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding immediate post operative commando care.

SECTION – I

Demographic data – it compromised of items pertaining to socio demographic information of the nurses regarding age, sex, qualification, work experience and area of work, in-service education attended.

SECTION -II

A structured questionnaire schedule has been developed to assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding immediate post-operative care of commando patients. Extensive review of literature, expert opinion & investigator's profession experience & informal questions with care problems provide basis for the construction of the structured questionnaire schedule.

PLAN FOR DATA ANALYSIS:-

The data analysis was planned to include descriptive statistics i.e. percentage, mean, standard deviation, inferential statistics i.e. Chi-square. Chi-square to find out the association between the demographic variables with the knowledge score. The finding of the study has presented in the form of tables.

RESULT

Line graph of knowledge scores show the level of knowledge at different points. The lowest score 5-10

was scored by 3.33% nurses and highest score of 25-30 was scored by 1.66% nurses. The highest percentages of nurses were grouped in 20-25 score. 10-15 scored by 20% nurses, remaining 31.66% nurses scored 15-20.

The mean plotted on the graph showing the average of total observations

Association with knowledge score with selected socio-demographic variables.

Table 8- Statistical inference based on CHI-SQUARE test between knowledge score of subjects & demographic variables i.e. age, sex, qualification, total clinical experience, oncology experience, CNE attendance.

DISCUSSION
Level Knowledge wise comparison of mean and standard deviation of knowledge scores of staff nurses on immediate post-operative commando care shows that 60% of staff nurses have good level of knowledge (19-27) with mean of 21.40 and SD of 1.72. Average level of knowledge contains 36% of staff nurses who scored between 10-18 with mean of 14.36 and a SD of 2.36. Only one candidate categorized in poor and excellent knowledge levels on the basis of their knowledge scores. Clark T. and Homes S. (2007), reported that newly qualified nurses were expected to be competent and able to practice independently.

CONCLUSION
Due to lack of such specific care, the surveillance of the patients is less. For this reason they need good care after surgery for early healing and health promotion. This topic is a challenge to all the staff nurses to have proper and adequate knowledge about the immediate post operative management of the patient who have undergone COMMANDO surgery as nurses play the main role in providing care and preventing infection and helping the patient a quick recovery.

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