

APPROVAL PAGE FORM

This thesis is for attainment Master Degree in Critical Care and Emergency Nursing

By

Shimaa EL-Mghwry Mohamed Atwa

Demonstrator in the Critical Care and Emergency Nursing Department
Technical Nursing Institute – The National Cancer Institute, Cairo University

Has been approved for the Critical Care and Emergency Nursing Department
Faculty of Nursing - Cairo University

By

Prof. Dr. Warda Youssef Mohamed Morsef

.....

Assist. Prof. Dr. Hanaa Ali Elfeky

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Date

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Assessment of Nurses' Knowledge and Practices of Palliative Care among Cancer Patients

By

Shimaa EL-Mghwry Mohamed Atwa

Abstract

Background: Comprehensive cancer care requires the integration of palliative care practices and principles across the trajectory of the cancer experience and may be the sole focus of care for those patients with advanced incurable disease. As the incidence of cancer increases worldwide and the burden of cancer rises, especially in low and middle resource countries, the need for palliative care is greater than ever before and this care is most effectively provided by a multidisciplinary team. Because nurses have integral roles on that team by; identifying symptoms, providing care coordination, and assuring clear communication, so assessing nurses' knowledge and performance of palliative care is important. **Aim of the study:** to assess the nurses' knowledge and practices of palliative care among cancer patients. **Sample:** A sample of convenience including thirty male and female nurses who are working in the Intensive Care Unit. **Research Design:** A descriptive/exploratory research design was utilized in the current study. **Setting:** This study was conducted at the National Cancer Institute, Cairo University. **Tools:** Two tools were developed by the researcher and utilized to collect data pertinent to the study; A structured knowledge assessment questionnaire, and performance observational checklist. Included nurses were interviewed to fill out the knowledge assessment questionnaire then each nurse was observed in three different occasions using nurses' observational checklist. **Results:** About half of the studied samples were at the age group of 18-25, with a mean age of $26.53 \pm SD= 6.29$, married, graduated from technical nursing institute. Around one third of the studied sample had years of experience ranged from 5 to <10 years. Concerning knowledge, and practice the current study revealed that the studied nurses had unsatisfactory knowledge as well as practice level, with mean scores of 57.7% of $26.53 \pm SD= 613.28$, and $51.09 \pm SD =9.17$ respectively. There is positive correlation between years of experience and age ($r = 0.893$, at $p < 0.000$); years of experience and total practices scores (0.437, at $p < 0.016$); general knowledge scores and physical symptoms ($r= 0.389$, at $p0.033$); physical symptoms and psychological symptoms and total knowledge scores($r = 0.683$ at $p < 0.000$; $r=0.949$, at $p < 0.000$); psychological symptoms and total knowledge scores($r=0.788$, at $p < 0.000$) respectively. **Conclusion:** There is need for continuing education for upgrading nurse' knowledge about palliative care. **Recommendations:** enrichment of all nurses at any educational institute about knowledge and practices related to palliative care according to the standard guidelines will be helpful to achieve quality of life. Also replication of this study on larger probability sample at the different geographical location at Egypt is highly recommended.

Key words: Palliative care – Cancer patients – nurses' knowledge – nurses' practice.

Signed:.....

Chairperson of the thesis

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Dedication

To The Soul of My Father

Who always stood behind me and knew I would succeed. Gone now but never forgotten. I will miss him always and love him forever.

To My Mother

Whatever I am is due to your hard work, prayers and love

To my husband, brothers, sisters & close friends

Those are my great support

Thanks for all they did.

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List of abbreviations

CHT	Chemotherapy
BM	Bowel Movement
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
NCI	National Cancer Institute
TNI	Technical Nursing Institute
ELC	End of life care
NRS	A numeric Rating Scale
QOL	Quality of Life
VAS	visual analogue scale
ONS	Oncology Nursing Society
CRF	Cancer-related fatigue
NHS	National Health Survey
ACS	American Cancer Society
BMI	Body Mass Index
MDT	Multi- disciplinary Team
MDASI	M. D. Anderson Symptom Inventory
OSCO	American Society of Clinical Oncology
WHO	World Health Organization
BMT	Bone Marrow Transplantation
ASA	American Sleep Association
IASP	International Association for the Study of Pain
EPEC	Education on Palliative and End-of-life Care
NICE	The National Institute for Clinical Excellence
NCCN	National Comprehensive Cancer Network
NCHSPCS	The National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care Services
UPMC	University of Pittsburgh Medical Care
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences