



Knowledge assessment regarding Narcotic Drugs among ICU Nurses

Rini Mary Thomas

Department of Medical Surgical Nursing, Bombay Hospital College of Nursing, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Abstract

People abuse drugs for various reasons. It starts with curiosity, then availability and previous drug use and also due to emotional and social pressures. The use of Narcotic analgesia is normally controlled by various regulations and procedures to prevent misuse and to comply with International conventions termed as Narcotic policy. Previous studies have shown that Nurses are having inadequate knowledge regarding Narcotic drug policy. The purpose of this study was to assess the knowledge level of ICU Nurses regarding Narcotic drugs. 10 ICU Nurses were selected through the purposive sampling technique and their knowledge level was assessed by Structured knowledge questionnaire. Mean and standard deviation of knowledge score was calculated in which, the mean value was 8.3 and the standard deviation was 1.89. Thus, the study revealed that there is no association of knowledge scores with selected socio demographic variables regarding Narcotic drugs.

Keywords: knowledge, narcotic drug, ICU nurses

1. Introduction

"Drugs are the enemies of ambition and hope, and when we fight against drugs, we are fighting for the future" [1].

The term "Narcotics" obtained from the Greek word "narke" that means "numbness or torpor". Narcotic means any drug that produces sleep or stupor which relieves pain and it affects the central nervous system because of its depressant effect. It is usually called as opium or opium derivatives in medical terms. Opium till today is the best-known source for relieving pain [2].

People abuse drugs for various reasons. It starts with curiosity, then availability and consumption of drug in past and also due to emotional and social pressures. In some societies, use and abuse of drug become a habit quite early in life as a part of the culture. The drugs which are very common (such as tobacco, marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and valium) have attracted both local and international concern. Young injecting drug users are at high risk for a number of negative health outcomes such as hepatitis B, and Human Immuno Deficiency virus infection [3].

The use of Narcotics by physician or Nurse to relieve pain over a period of time may lead to addiction or dependence of patients on the drug. The abuse of Narcotics is mainly due to its special features to cause euphoria and it also reduces responsiveness to physical and psychological stimuli. Administration of Narcotics plays a vital role in managing pain without developing physical dependence [2].

From 2002 to 2010, opioid analgesics prescription, opioid diversion rates and abuse, and deaths occurring due to opioid consumption hiked up significantly in the United States. All 3 elevated or got reduced from 2011 to 2013, however, rates of opioid overdose deaths increased 14%, from 7.9 to 9.0 per 100,000 population [4].

Various regulations and procedures are used for the control of Narcotic analgesia to prevent misuse and to abide by International conventions entitled as Narcotic policy. It is the policy of the hospital that all controlled substances shall be counted at the beginning of every shift by off going & oncoming licensed staff Nurses. A Narcotic record shall be maintained, if the patient has an order for Narcotics, Nurse

should receive a written order from physician, and the time of taking Narcotics till administration and documentation should be carried out with an eye witness and get signature from two licensed Nurses that is; the one who have administered and witnessed. The collection, documentation and record keeping of Narcotics is done by Nurse Manager, she is responsible for any manipulation or misuse of Narcotics [5].

1.1 Need for the Study

Narcotic is a drug, which is very effective in controlling pain and provides the patient with a sense of well-being. Misuse or improper dosage, and lack of knowledge regarding Narcotic drug policy among health professionals especially Nurses may lead to under estimation of patient's pain or lead to physical dependence in patients.

Margo McCaffrey and Betty R. Ferrell in 1997, conducted a study on Nurse's knowledge regarding opioid analgesic dose and psychological dependence among 200 Nurses by using a questionnaire revealed that only 45% of staff Nurses were aware of opioid analgesic and its relation with physical dependence. It suggested that there was an urgent need for basic education on opioid analgesia in correlation with pain management. A Nursing study revealed that Nurses know about pain but not about Narcotics; they had unrealistic fears about the risks of addiction. This led to under treat pain in patients who needed Narcotic pain killer the most.

NRS Karen RN on June 24, 2013, conducted a study on Nurses, which revealed that the Nurses know about pain but not about Narcotics; they tend to have unrealistic fears about the risks of addiction. This led to under treat pain in patients who need Narcotic pain killer the most.

In the year 1997, a study was conducted by Lebovits, Allen H *et al*, to evaluate the knowledge and attitude among health professionals regarding pain issues such as addiction, the assessment of pain, scheduling, use of analgesics, whether differences based on hospital settings, years of service, clinical practice area, and country of origin. A total of 686 Nurses, physicians, pharmacists, and medical/Nursing students from

three hospitals participated and completed a 17-item survey to evaluate knowledge and beliefs regarding pain. Results revealed that Nurses scored significantly less accordantly than physicians on 11 of the 17 items. Unreasonable fear of drug dependency was a misapprehend and important concept that needed to be confronted.

Thus, previous studies motivated the researcher to do this study among Nurses on Narcotic drugs with an intention to educate them about Narcotic drugs.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

“A descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding Narcotic Drugs among ICU Nurses working in a selected hospital, Indore.”

1.3 Objectives of the Study

- To assess the level of knowledge scores regarding Narcotic drugs among ICU Nurses.
- To find out the association of knowledge scores with selected socio demographic variables of ICU Nurses.

1.4 Hypothesis

At 0.05 level of significance:-

H₁: There is a significant association of knowledge scores of ICU Nurses on Narcotic drugs with selected socio demographic variables.

1.5 Assumption

This study assumes that ICU Nurses may have knowledge regarding Narcotic drugs.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Research Approach

Quantitative approach was used for the present study.

2.2 Research Design

The research design adopted for the study was Non-experimental descriptive design. This design was used to assess the knowledge level of ICU Nurses regarding Narcotic drugs.

2.3 Variables used for the study

The two variables identified in this study are;

- **Research variables:** In this study, the research variable was knowledge.
- **Extraneous variables:** In this study, the socio demographic variables are the extraneous variables.

2.4 Setting of the study

This study was conducted at Bombay Hospital, Indore. The

4. Tables and Figures

4.1 Tables

Table 1: Distribution of samples according to socio demographic variables. (n = 10)

S. No.	Socio demographic variables	Freq	Percentage
1	Age (in years)	21-25	70%
		26-30	20%
		31-35	10%
		>35	0
2	Gender	Male	30%
		Female	70%

researcher selected the setting for the following reasons:

- Availability of the sample
- Economic feasibility of conducting the study.

2.5 Population

The target population in this study was 10 staff Nurses of ICU working In Bombay Hospital, Indore.

2.6 Sample and Sampling Technique

In this study sample was selected from Bombay Hospital Indore, 10 ICU Nurses who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were selected as the sample. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the samples for this study.

2.7 Sampling Criteria

❖ **Inclusion criteria**

- ICU Nurses;
 - Of a selected hospital, Indore.
 - Willing to participate in the study.
 - Available at the time of the study.

❖ **Exclusion criteria**

- Nurses who are;
 - Working in wards, operation theatre, and consultancy.
 - Working outside Bombay Hospital.

2.8 Data Collection Process

10 ICU Nurses were selected randomly, using purposive sampling technique. Participants were requested to fill the socio demographic Proforma initially, and the knowledge was assessed using structured knowledge questionnaire.

3. Result

1. 70% of Nurses were in the age group of 21-25 years, 20% of ICU Nurses were under 26-30 years and 10% of ICU Nurses were in the age group of 31-35 years.
2. 70% of ICU Nurses were females, and 30% were males
3. 70% of ICU Nurses had B.Sc. Nursing, 20% had GNM and 10% of Nurses were having Post B.Sc. Nursing.
4. 70% of ICU Nurses had 1-5 years of clinical experience, 20% had 6-10 years of experience and 10% had <1 year of experience.
5. Mean value of knowledge level on Narcotic drug among ICU Nurses was 8.3; this value indicates that the ICU Nurses had an average knowledge level.
6. Standard deviation was 1.89.
7. There was no significant association of knowledge score with selected socio demographic variables.

3	Educational qualification	GNM	2	20%
		B. Sc Nursing	7	70%
		Post B. Sc	1	10%
		Others	0	0
4	Years of experience	<1yr	1	10%
		1-5yrs	7	70%
		6-10yrs	2	20%
		>10yrs	0	0

Table 2: Description of Knowledge Score (n = 10)

Knowledge score	Grade	Assessment of knowledge score				
		Freq.	Percentage	Mean	Median	S. D
1-5	Poor	0	0	8.3	8	1.89
6-10	Average	9	90%			
11-15	Good	1	10%			
16-20	Excellent	0	0			

Table 3: Association of knowledge scores with selected socio demographic variables.

socio demographic variables		<median	>median	χ^2 value	df	p value	level of significance
Age (in yrs)	21-25	4	3	0.774	2	0.569	Not significant
	26-30	1	1				
	31-35	1	0				
Gender	Male	2	1	0.079	1	0.667	Not significant
	Female	5	3				
Educational qualification	GNM	1	1	0.774	2	0.679	Not significant
	B.Sc. (N)	4	3				
	Post-B.Sc.	1	0				
Years of experience	<1yr	1	0	1.127	2	0.495	Not significant
	1-5yrs	4	3				
	6-10yrs	1	1				

4.2 Figures

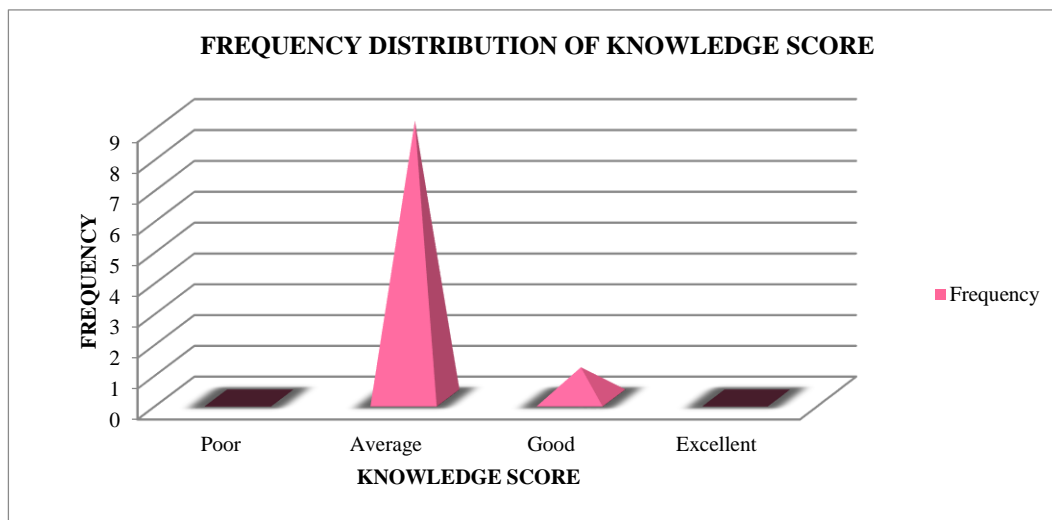


Fig 1: Bar diagram showing the frequency wise distribution of ICU Nurses according to knowledge score.

5. Conclusion

The study was to assess the level of knowledge regarding Narcotic drugs among ICU Nurses and find its association with selected demographic variables. After detailed analysis, the finding revealed the following results.

- The majority of ICU Nurses working in Bombay Hospital, Indore have an average knowledge.

- Mean score of knowledge score among ICU Nurses was 8.3.
- There was no significant association of knowledge scores with selected socio demographic variables.

The overall experience of conducting the study was enjoyable. The response of the participants was an encouraging hand for the investigators. The constant help and support of the guide

and co-guide provided a positive re-enforcement for successful completion of the study. The study was a new learning experience for the investigators.

6. References

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