



TEHRAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

School Of Nursing and Midwifery

International Campus

**Nurses' Knowledge, Attitude and Practice toward Pain
Management and Related Barriers among Post-Operative
Patients in Surgical Units of Tamale Teaching Hospital,
Ghana.**

**Submitted in partial fulfillment of the Requirement for a Master of Science Degree in
Medical Surgical Nursing.**

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ABSTRACT

Background: Pain management is a very important aspect of nursing care among post-operative patients. Deficit in knowledge, attitude and practice towards pain management among nurses remains a problem in Ghana and the World at large. In order to better managed pain in the surgical wards, nurses should be well equipped with knowledge of pain assessment and management.

Purpose: The purpose of the study was to determine nurse's knowledge, attitude and practice towards effective pain management and related barriers among post-operative patients in surgical units in Ghana.

Methodology: This study used quantitative study approach with descriptive cross-sectional study design. A sample of 211 nurses was recruited using a convenience sampling method. Data was collected using a Questionnaire and a checklist for nurses' practice regarding post-operative management. Descriptive statistics, Pearson's correlation coefficient and Chi-square test were used to analyze the data using SPSS version 16.0.

Results: The Mean age of the nurses was 29.77 with the youngest nurse being 23 years and oldest being 39 years. Majority of nurses 153(72.5%) had moderate knowledge, regarding attitude, 189(89.6%) of the nurses have negative attitudes toward pain management. Also nurse's post-operative pain management practices were low (M= 2.60). Nurses also identified the following as barriers to post-operative pain management: "Insufficient communication with nurse" (71.1%), "My hospital lacks proper pain assessment tool to assist my assessment" (64.0%), "I worry about the side effects of pain medication" (73.0%), "Reluctance of physician to order narcotics" (51.7%).

Conclusion and recommendation: The level of knowledge, attitude and practice towards post-operative management was generally low among the nurses. Therefore, there is the need to implement in-service training on pain management for nurses working in the surgical units frequently.

Key words: Pain, Nurses, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Barriers to Pain management, Post-operative Pain.