



Tehran University of Medical Sciences
International Campus (TUMS-IC)
Office of Vice President for Research Affairs



Tehran University of Medical Sciences

International Campus

School of Nursing and Midwifery

**A Thesis Submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for
the Award of Master of Science (Msc.) Degree in Critical Care Nursing**

Title

**Assessing the Nurse's Knowledge, Attitude, Performance and Barriers regarding Pain
Management in Intensive Care Units in Tanzania, 2019**

By

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Abstract:

Background: Pain is a common and distressing symptom among critically ill non-verbal patients admitted in ICU. Untreated pain among critically ill non-verbal patients may cause difficulty weaning, hemodynamic instability, pulmonary and cardiac dysfunction leading to poor quality of life. Hence critical care nurses need to have adequate knowledge, positive attitude, good performance and early identification of barriers in order to achieve effective pain management. Therefore the main focus of this study was to assess the critical care nurses' knowledge, attitude, performance and barriers regarding pain management in intensive care units in Tanzania.

Methods: A descriptive-correlation cross-sectional research design was employed in this study. The participants were (n = 170) ICUs nurses from four national referral hospitals in Tanzania. The data collection was done using pre-validated and reliable questionnaires includes "Knowledge and Attitudes Survey Regarding Pain (KASRP) tool, a performance tool by Eunkyong and Barrier tool that was developed by the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG). Data were entered and analyzed using SPSS version 20.0. The analysis of categorical data was done using the Pearson chi-square and Kruskal-Wallis test. Association between the ordinal variables was measured using Spearman correlation coefficient and Kruskal-Wallis test.

Results: The study findings revealed that the mean(SD) for the entire knowledge and attitude was 13.26 (2.75) indicated inadequate knowledge and attitude, the mean(SD) for performance was 2.08 (0.16) indicated low performance, the mean(SD) for barriers was 3.9 (1.17) indicated barriers related to patient and medical staff were perceived and finally a Kruskal-Wallis test showed that there was no significant relationship between nurses' knowledge and attitude in relation to performance ($H = 2.84$,



$P = 0.09$). In addition, the findings of the Spearman correlation revealed that there was no significant association between nurses' knowledge and attitude in relation to performance, ($r = 0.12$), $p = 0.102$

Conclusion and recommendations: The findings of this study support the common concern of inadequate knowledge, negative attitude, low performance and presence of barriers related to patient, medical staff and health care system among critical care nurses. Continuous education, in-service training and participation of patient's family members on pain management could improve nurse's knowledge, attitude, performance and barriers; hence this will lead to attaining effective pain management on critically ill non-verbal patients admitted in ICU.

Keywords: Nurses, Knowledge, Attitude, Performance, Barriers, Intensive Care Unit, Pain management.



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