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Insights into pressure injury prevention: Assessing the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Palestinian nursing students

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Palestinian nursing students towards pressure injury prevention.

Materials and methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted with 455 nursing students recruited from Arab American University-Palestine, employing a total population sample. Data collection forms include socio-demographic information, the Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Assessment Tool, Attitude towards Pressure Ulcer Prevention Instrument and Pressure Injury Preventive Practices scale.

Results: The study found that students had a mean knowledge score of 54% (14.04/26), a positive attitude score of 75.8% (39.42/52), and demonstrated a fair level of practice 75.3% (30.12/40). Significant differences were observed in the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice total scores, linked to academic year, clinical experience, and the number of attended departments during clinical training ($p < 0.001$). Additionally, weak but significant positive relationships were found between practice and attitude scores ($r = 0.303$, $p < 0.001$), practice and knowledge score ($r = 0.211$, $p < 0.001$), and a moderate positive significant relationship between knowledge and attitude scores ($r = 0.567$, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: The study revealed insufficient knowledge, positive attitudes, and somewhat unsafe practices among nursing students regarding pressure injury prevention. It highlights the need for specific revisions in the nursing curriculum. Improvements can be achieved through detailed coverage in classrooms and laboratories, integrating simulation methods. Additionally, ensuring that students gain adequate experiences in clinical units, with a specific emphasis on pressure injury prevention, is crucial for improving students' capability and contribute to better pressure injury management.

1. Introduction

Despite significant advancements in healthcare, pressure injuries (PIs) persist as a prominent concern for patients, healthcare professionals, and institutions, serving as a crucial indicator of nursing care quality [1]. Beyond the direct impact on patient well-being, PIs contribute to an increase in nursing workload and imposes a heavy economic burden on patients, families, medical institutions, and society [2–8].

Numerous global studies, employing different methodological approaches and various groups of patients, have been conducted to determine the prevalence and incidence of PIs. The overall global prevalence of pressure-related injuries among patients stands at 12.8%, with a hospital-acquired prevalence of 8.4% [9,10]. Consistent findings indicate incidence rates ranging from 8.4% to 18.6%, emphasizing the persistent challenge in healthcare facilities [9,10]. The ongoing occurrence of PIs highlights the imperative for continuous improvement in nursing care practices regarding PI prevention.

Preventing PIs involves a comprehensive approach, including repositioning, prophylactic dressings, support surfaces, and general care encompassing risk and skin assessment and nutrition. These measures are endorsed by clinical practice guidelines [11,12]. Nurses, in their role as patient safety advocates, play a crucial part in identifying PIs, particularly due to their daily interactions with individuals at higher

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