

# Assessment of the Nurse's Knowledge about post-operative Nursing Care in Al-Hillah Teaching hospitals

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## Abstract

**Background:** After surgery, post-operative patients with numerous infectious issues require further attention. Since infection is more likely to occur near the surgical site, post-operative care is particularly critical at this point.

**Objectives:** To assessment knowledge about post-operative nursing care in All-Hillah teaching hospitals.

**Methodology:** A descriptive study design selective to carry out the study in order to assessment of nurse's knowledge about post-operative in Al-Hillah teaching hospitals from the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Nonprobability sample consistent of (50) nurses and questionnaire survey were employed to collect data which involved demographical data, general information and items related to the nurse's knowledge.

**Results:** The majority of sample age were between 24-35 years.

**Conclusion:** The levels of the nurse's knowledge (early care and late care) of post-operative nursing care is poor.

**Recommendation:** Educational program can be designed, constructed and administrated to nurses, to increase nurses' knowledge about post-operative nursing care.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, post-operative.

## Objectives

1. To assess the demographical data For Nurses.
2. To find out the level of Nurse's Knowledge related to the early care of post-operative period.
3. To find out the level of Nurse's Knowledge related to the late care of the post-operative period.

## Introduction

Following an operation, the post-operative phase begins as soon as the patient is discharged from the hospital and continues until the patient is released from the facility. After a surgical procedure, nursing care for post-surgical patients is primarily concerned with protecting the patient, who has been placed at physiologic risk as a result of the procedure, and preventing complications as the patient's body is repairing itself during the recovery phase.[1, 2]. Post-anesthesia care nurses, or nurse specialists working in a recovery room after surgery, are in charge of monitoring the patient's immediate recovery time after surgery (PACU). In post-anesthesia care, there are three phases that provide varied patient-specific levels of care are available. As a result of the present variety of surgical procedures, levels of anesthesia, and ambulatory operations, patients receive a wide range of post-operative care [3, 4], which has led to the identification of several different phases of post-anesthesia care. The

preventing complications after surgery is an important part of post-operative care. Following surgery, the prevention of infection at the surgical site, the improvement of their immunization level, and the promotion of their ability to control infection. During the time of surgery, there were numerous infection problems in the post-operative patient population. At the time of surgery, the patient need additional attention. Particularly at the surgical site, patients are more susceptible to infection, making post-operative care all the more critical[5, 6]. Nurses deliver nursing care in a dynamic, coordinated, and systematic manner. Consequently, in order to meet the requirements of the patients in their care, nurses must develop cognitive, interpersonal, and technical abilities. Nurses should examine their care in the immediate post-operative period, with a special focus on preventing complications that may develop from surgical anesthetic, because the PACU may be crucial in preventing potential issues and treating them as soon as they occur. When it comes to patient care following surgery, the use of NCS is

vital since it enables nurses to give comprehensive and personalized treatment, resulting in better clinical and psychosocial outcomes for patients [7, 8].

## Methodology:

### Design of the study

A descriptive study design using a purposive (non-probability) a sample of which carried out of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Study design was used in this quantitative research to assess the level of the nurse's knowledge for post-operative care in Al-Hillah Teaching hospitals.

### Sample of the study

Purposive (Non-probability) The target population (50) which was included in this study was nurses who work in the surgical ward and intensive care unit, divided into (30) in Al-Hillah Teaching Hospital and (20) in Al-Emam Al-Sadiq Hospital. Nurses who met the research criteria was included in this study.

### Study instrument

A large body of relevant literature were extensively reviewed to find the appropriate tool for this study. Twenty items questionnaire was used to answer the study question regarding post-operative nursing care.

### The questionnaire is measured and rated on:

Cut off point: two score Yes or No

- Range: 2+1=3

Cut off point equal or less to (1.5) was considered No Cut off point, greater than (1.5) was considered Yes Cut off point. The Cut. Off point was computed through the use of the following formula:

$$= 3 \div 2 = 1.5$$

This study focuses on two main part that include socio-demographic data and post-operative care (early care, late care).

### A. Demographical Characteristic:

1. Gender (Female, Male).
2. Age.
3. Education (Bachelor's Degree, Master Degree, Doctoral Degree).
4. Working place (units) (Surgical, ICU).

### B. Nurse's knowledge Items:

1. Early care (22) items.
2. Late care (14) items.

## Data Collection

Between February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, nurses at the hospital collected data using a questionnaire format and complete out sampling. The data collection period lasted from February 1<sup>st</sup> to February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The process of collecting data for the researcher through the self-report with nurses at Al-Hillah hospitals, took time

to fill the questionnaire time of 20-30 minutes and participants were asked to read the questionnaire and ask the researcher if they had questions and collected evidence through several visits to the hospital after the researcher obtained all the required approvals. The purpose of the study was explained to all participants and were asked for voluntary participation.

## Statistical Data Analysis:

In order to assess and evaluate the outcomes of the study, several statistical measures were employed, which were performed using the Microsoft Excel (2010) and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22. Descriptive analysis was also used to describe the sample characteristics, as well as, the levels of the nurse's knowledge in Al-Hillah Teaching Hospitals.

## Results

**Table 1: Distribution frequency related to demographical characterizes of the sample.**

No.	Variable	F	%
1	Gender		
1	Female	32	64 %
2	Male	18	36 %
	Total	50	100 %
2	Age (year)		
1	24-35	30	60 %
2	36-47	12	24 %
3	48-59	8	16 %
	Total	50	100 %
3	Level of Education		
1	Bachelor's Degree	40	80 %
2	Master's degree	5	10 %
3	Doctoral Degree	5	10 %
	Total	50	100 %
4	Working Place (Units)		
1	Surgical Wards	39	78 %
2	ICU	11	22 %
	Total	50	100 %

The results in this table shows that the most percent (64%) of the study sample were female nurses. As regard to their age groups of the study sample (60%) were nurses within age 24-35 years. As regard to their levels of education of the sample (80 %) was bachelor's degree. Also, there is higher percentage (78 %) of the study sample working in the surgical wards.

**Table 2: Distribution of the nurse's knowledge related to the early care of post-operative period.**

No.	Level of Nurse's Knowledge (Early Care)	F	%
1	Poor	39	78 %
2	Good	11	22 %
Total		50	100 %

This table show that the most level of the nurse's knowledge related to the early care of post-operative period for the study sample (78%) were poor.

**Table 3: Distribution of the nurse's knowledge related to the late care of post-operative period.**

No.	Level of Nurse's Knowledge (Late Care)	F	%
1	Poor	41	82 %
2	Good	9	18 %
Total		50	100 %

This table show that the most level of nurse's knowledge related to the late care of post-operative period for the study sample (82%) were poor.

## Discussion

### Demographical characteristics of the sample:

The results of the present study indicate that the majority of sample (64%) are female. These results are disagreed by [9] who found that (56.7%) are male and (43.3%) are female [6], also disagree by [10] who found that (7%) are male and (93 %) are female [7].

The finding of the study shows that the age group, highest percentage (60%) was (24-35) years. This result supported by [9] who findings indicate that the more of the studied sample (43.4%) were more than (20 – 29) years [6], also the result agree by [10] who findings indicate that the more of the studied sample (86.7%) were more than (22-24) years.

According to levels of education the result shows that the majority of sample (80 %) are bachelor's degree, (10%) are master's degree, (10%) are doctoral degree. This result agree with the finding of [10] who found that (73 %) are bachelor's degree [10], while the result disagree with the findings of (Ani, 2015) who found that (53.4%) are Secondary nursing graduate [6].

As regard of their work place is higher percentage (78 %) of the study sample working in the surgical wards while (22%) were ICU. This result agree with the finding of [11, 12] who found that (37.1%) are surgical wards .

### Level of nurse's knowledge in post-operative early care

Table (2): This table show that the most level of nurse's knowledge related to the early care of post-operative period for the study sample (78%) were poor, while (22%) were good. This result agree with the finding of [13] who found that (64.58%) are Low.

#### A. Level of nurse's knowledge in post-operative late care:

Table (3): This table show that the most level of nurse's knowledge related to the late care of post-operative period for the study sample (82%) were poor, while (18%) were good. This result agree with the finding of [14] who found that (70%) are poor.

## Conclusion & Recommendation

### Conclusion

❖ Based on the results of this study, we conclude that :

1. The majority of the sample was aged between 24-35 years.
2. Most of the sample in the study were female nurses.
3. High percent of the sample were getting on bachelor's degree.
4. The majority of the sample in the study was work of surgical wards.
5. Related to the levels of nurse's knowledge in early care and late care of post-operative nursing care results show is poor knowledge.

### Recommendations

• According to the study, the researchers hers recommended that:

1. Raising the awareness among the nurses in (ICU, Surgical Ward) unit about post-operative nursing care.
2. Education programs can be designed, constructed and administered to nurses, to increase nurse's knowledge about post-operative nursing care in both stages.
3. A continuous, periodic in-service educational and training program should be implemented for all surgical nurses, particularly for freshly graduated nurses, to increase their competence to deal with surgical wounds and, as a result, to improve the overall quality of care provided to patients.
4. Provide scientific publications and journals on postoperative surgical wound care and benefit from the current program by adapting it into a handbook to be distributed as a means of implementation.

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