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Assessment of factors influencing nurse's knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding pain management of hospitalized children

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Abstract--Children frequently complain of pain. Even though the right to be pain-free is a basic human right, many hospitalized children do not get that right. The nurse's primary responsibility is to ensure that the patient receives enough pain relief. The aim of present study to assess the factors influencing knowledge, attitudes, and practices of nurses regarding pain management for hospitalized children. A descriptive cross-sectional study by using quantitative approach is conducted throughout the period of (25th September 2020 to 20th June 2022). It conducted at pediatric wards in Babylon hospital province, a purposive non-Probability sample consists of 300 subject was collected through a self-administration report questionnaire from nurses who work in hospitals of the Babylon province. Descriptive statistics, and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data. The results showed according to mean that Are pain management standards or protocols in hospital and designated area for charting pain (mean=1.04) were the most common factors influenced pain management related to organization, and parents belief that pain medications should be given as little as possible affects nurses ability to manage pain of children (1.29) were the most common factors influenced pain management. The present study concluded that pain management standards or protocols in hospital and designated area for charting pain were the most common factors influenced pain management related to organization, Parents' reluctance to have children receive medications affects ability to manage pain of children the most common factors influenced pain management related to parents.

Keywords--factors influencing, knowledge, practices, pain management, hospitalized children.

Introduction

Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of nurses play an important role in effectively assessing and managing pain. Quality pediatric pain management depends on these essential elements of education, training, and nursing curriculum. Nurses, like doctors, have been linked to under-treating children's pain. 'Nurses' attitudes, beliefs, perspectives, levels of education, and personal pain experiences all influence and contribute to the ineffectiveness of nursing care and pain management for children today ⁽¹⁾. Infants and children present unique challenges because of their age, developmental level, cognitive and communication abilities, and prior pain experiences. In infants and young children, pain assessment is more complicated and challenging than in adults, and there is no single universal method for infant pain assessment ⁽²⁾. The first step in treating "children's pain" is to accurately assess the severity of the patient's pain. To document and evaluate the efficacy of pain intervention, pain assessment tools or flow sheets are significantly underutilized ⁽³⁾. Pain is often referred to as the "fifth vital sign," and it should be assessed and recorded as frequently as other vital signs. An accurate assessment of pain informs the development of a treatment strategy. Patients of any age or condition can benefit from systematic and routine pain assessment based on standardized and validated measures ⁽⁴⁾.

It's no secret that children's pain is one of the most distressing aspects of illness or hospitalization, and this has become increasingly apparent in recent years. Their health and future development could be adversely affected. In spite of pain control protocols, pediatric pain remains high in children, and analgesics are insufficient. Children in hospitals around the world suffer from high levels of pain, according to recent research. This is despite the fact that the number of treatment options for this condition has increased ⁽⁵⁾. Pain management resources and access to opioid analgesics are limited, as are educational and training opportunities for families, nurses and physicians. Cultural and language barriers also play a role in ineffective pain assessment and management for children. A lack of pain management for children in the Arab world, including Iraq, may also be due to these factors ⁽⁶⁾. Much of the research on postoperative pain management has focused on 'nurses' knowledge and attitudes related to pain and 'nurses' perceived barriers to providing adequate pain relief to children being cared for by nurses. Children who have undergone surgery are still experiencing moderate to severe pain, despite the fact that there have been improvements in care as a result of increased knowledge, awareness, accountability, and regulatory requirements ⁽⁷⁾.

Methodology

The study aimed to assess factors influencing knowledge, attitudes, and practices of nurses regarding pain management for hospitalized children.

The study design

A descriptive cross-sectional study is conducted throughout the period of (21st September 2020 to 20th June 2022).

Sample of the study

A total of 300 nurse who were selected by a purposive non-probability sample from pediatric wards in hospitals of the Babylon province.

The Tools of the Study

Part Five: include questionnaire aimed at identifying perceived barriers to children's pain treatment. There are five parts to it:

- First section: Factors affecting related to organization: there are ten (10) yes/no questions .
- Second section: Factors affecting related to parents: three (3) questions
- Third section: Children's factors: a set of five (5) questions about children
- Fourth section: There are eight (8) questions in the Nurses Factors .
- Fifth section: a set of three (3) questions pertaining to cultural and religious beliefs

Questionnaire Validity

The questionnaire was sent to a panel of (16) (100%) experts in various fields of nursing and medicine from various universities to evaluate the questionnaire's contents. The expert panel assessed the instrument's content validity, as well as its relevance and ability to measure the study's variable. Following expert advice, the researcher tweaked the gadget even more. Some experts' perspectives modify particular items in knowledge and practice, while most experts focus on aspects that influence pediatric pain treatment, while others experts focus on knowledge questions more than other areas.

Reliability of the Study Tool

The estimates of the reliability were determined through the use of the Alfa-Correlation Coefficient (Cronbach's Alfa which valued as a total of 0.92 and considered acceptable).

Data collection

Before conducting the study, all relevant licenses and approvals were obtained, including permissions from hospital directors prior to data collection. The study's objectives were explained to nurses from the pediatric wards of the selected hospitals who met the eligibility criteria and agreed to participate in the study. After that, the researcher distributed the questionnaire to all nurses present at the time who were willing to participate using self-administered questionnaires. The researcher asked the participants to complete the surveys on their own time. If any of the questions remained unanswered, the researcher asked the respondent to complete them.

Data Analysis

To describe the data, SPSS version 25 was used to analyze it. Frequency, percentage, and means were utilized to describe it.

An ethical committee of the Department of Pediatric Nursing at Babylon University / College of Nursing approved the study. After completing the design of the questionnaire that was adopted as a tool for the study, which was intended to provide a brief explanation to the participants about the nature of the research and its purpose to form a clear picture as well as a clear explanation about their right in not completing their participation if they feel disinterest in the study.

Results

Figure 1 Organizational factors. Findings in the figure (1) showed according to mean that Are pain management standards or protocols in hospital and designated area for charting pain (mean=1.04) were the most common factors influenced pain management related to organization, besides lack of standard pain assessment tool and protocols for pain management were the most affects of pain management (mean= 1.05 and 1.06) respectively.

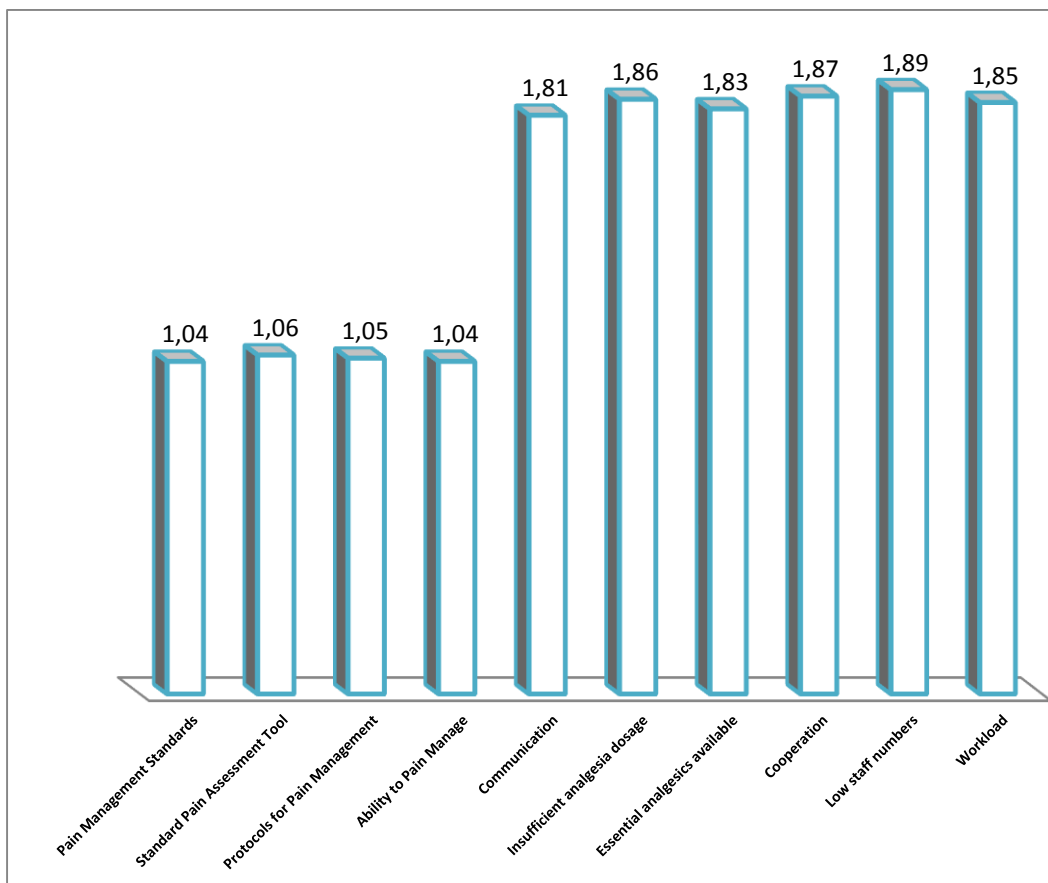


Figure 1. Factors related Organization

Figure 2 Parents factors. Findings in the figure (2) showed according to mean that Parents' reluctance to have children receive medications affects ability to manage pain of children (mean=1.16), were the most common factors influenced pain management related to parents.

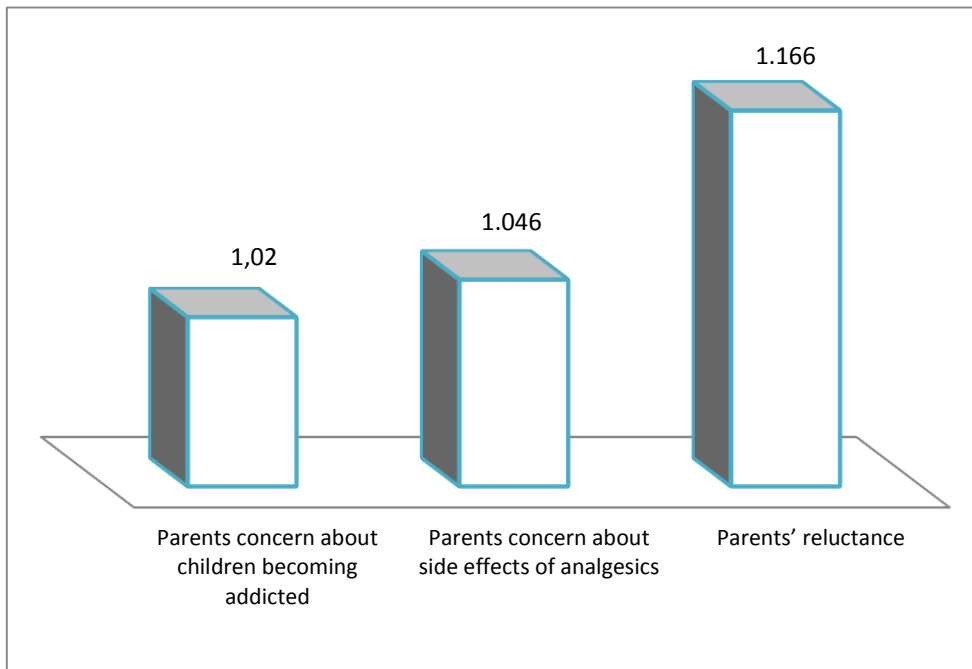


Figure 2. Factors related Parents

Figure 3. Children factors. Patient inability to communicate affects ability to manage pain of children; as shown in figure (3) were the most common factors influenced pain management (mean=1.45), followed by those who are reluctant to report pain affects ability to manage pain and reluctance to take pain medications affects ability to manage pain (1.47 and 1.48) respectively.

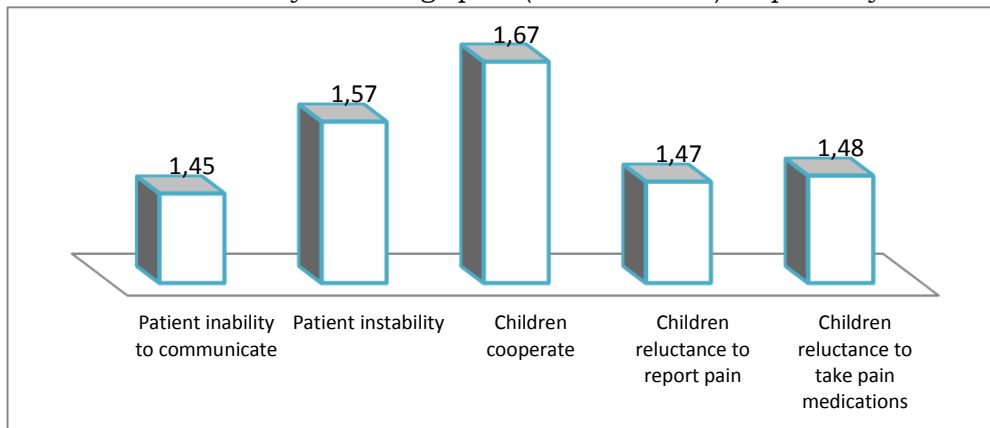


Figure 3. Factors related Children

Figure 4. Nurses factors. Findings in the figure (4) showed according to mean that This factor represented in lack of nursing curriculum in their studied (1.04) as indicated in figure (4), lack of undertaken any further continue education (training) (1.05), lack familiarity with analgesics affects ability to manage the pain of children (1.07), lack of training affects your ability to manage pain of children (1.08), lack guidelines for managing children pain (1.15), and followed by Low priority of pain management by unit team affects ability to manage pain of children (1.45) were the most common factor influenced pain management.

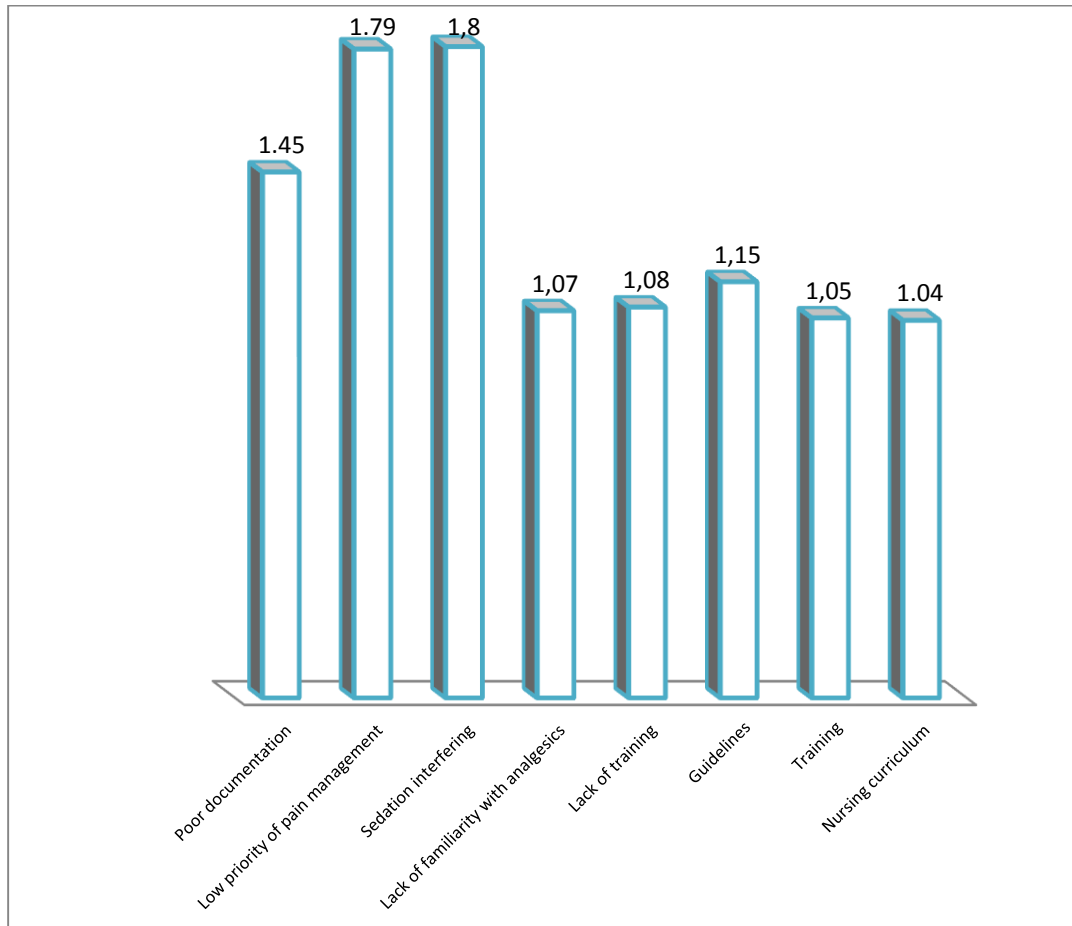


Figure 4. Factors related nurses

Figure 5. Cultural factors. Findings in the figure (5) showed according to mean that parents belief that pain medications should be given as little as possible affects nurses ability to manage pain of children (1.29) were the most common factors influenced pain management.

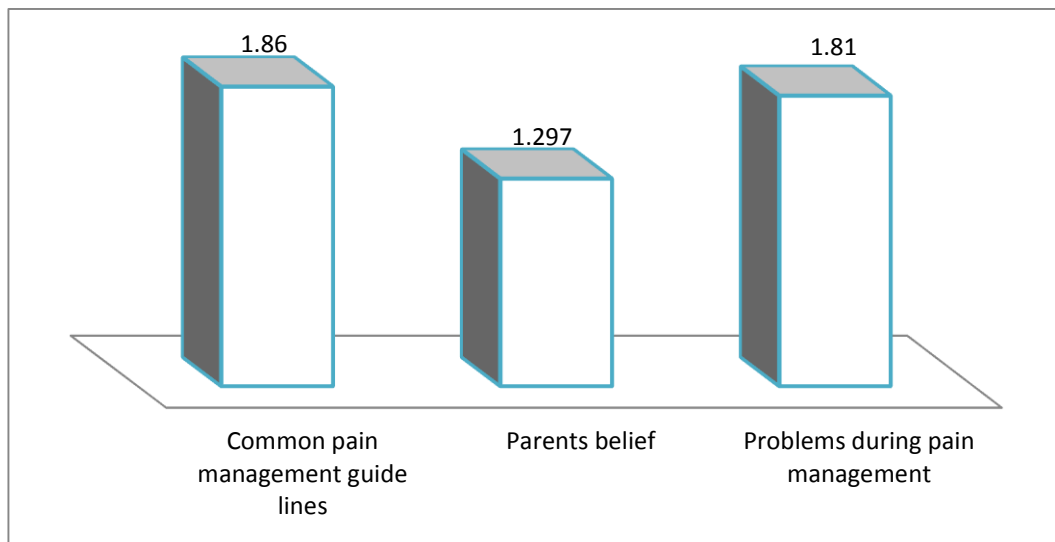


Figure 5. Factors related Culture

Discussion

Figure 1. Organizational factors. Findings showed according to mean that are pain management standards or protocols in hospital and designated area for charting pain were the most common factors influenced pain management related to organization, besides lack of standard pain assessment tool and protocols for pain management were the most effects of pain management. The results of the current research are similar to those of a qualitative study using a content analysis method conducted by ⁽⁸⁾ to investigate factors influencing neonatal pain management from the perspectives of nurses and physicians in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). The findings reported that the majority of participants do not use pain protocols, and there are specific tools to assess pain in neonates .

Figure 2. Parents factors. Findings presented according to mean that Parents' reluctance to have children receive medications affects ability to manage pain of children, were the most common factors influenced pain management related to parents. This findings go along with ⁽⁹⁾, who conducted a cross-sectional design, and concluded that most significant barriers to pain management as indicated by the highest means was parents' reluctance to have children receive medication.

Figure 3. Children factors. Findings showed according to mean that Patient inability to communicate affects ability to manage pain of children were the most common factors influenced pain management, followed by those who are reluctance to report pain affects ability to manage pain and reluctance to take pain medications affects ability to manage pain .The results in coordinating with study entitled "Towards Effective Pain Management: Breaking the Barriers", that carried out by ⁽¹⁰⁾. The findings reported that the Reluctance to take analgesics consider most factors that related to patient. In another study that conducted by ⁽¹¹⁾ who indicated that patient in ability to communicate as factor related to patient and family factor. As well as, a descriptive qualitative study that conducted by ⁽¹²⁾, and concluded that ineffective communication with children was common factor for pain assessment and management. furthermore ⁽¹³⁾ who carried out a descriptive cross-sectional facility-based study on 180 nurses , their

findings showed that child's uncooperativeness taking medication was the most factor that effect on pediatric pain management.

Figure 4. Nurses factors. Findings showed according to mean that lack of nursing curriculum in their studied, followed by lack of undertaken any further continue education (training), followed by lack familiarity with analgesics affects ability to manage the pain of children, The most common factor that influenced pain management was a lack of training, followed by a lack of guidelines for managing children's pain, and finally, a low priority of pain management by the unit team. . This finding consistent with ⁽¹⁴⁾ who conducted a cross-sectional study on 261 nurses at Mekelle City's public hospitals, and their findings indicated that lack of guidelines, and inadequate knowledge of the nurses. These all factors were pertinent for the management of pain in children .In another an exploratory, descriptive, qualitative study which was conducted by ⁽¹⁵⁾ who verified that the participants had inadequate training and preparation to effectively manage their patients' pain, and this was the main reason for their being unable to provide effective pain care. This result in the same line with present study.

Figure 5 .Cultural factors. The findings revealed that the most common factors influencing pain management were parent's belief that pain medications should be given as little as possible affects nurses' ability to manage pain of children . The current study's findings are consistent with those of a cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted on 124 parents of hospitalized children (aged 4–9 years) undergoing tonsillectomy in Korea, to explore parental attitudes toward children's pain and analgesic drugs and parental self-efficacy and use of pain relief strategies in children's postoperative pain management in Korea, and to identify the relationships among these variables. Their result indicated that half of parents believed that “children should be given pain medication as little as possible because of side effects ⁽¹⁶⁾. While, in another study that carried out by ⁽¹⁷⁾ to describe the cultural factors that are related to children's pain based on research findings reported in scientific articles 1995-2009. These factors are important to identify to conduct culturally sensitive care for children suffering from pain, who stated that Cultural factors have a great influence on children's pain.

Conclusions

The present study concluded that pain management standards or protocols in hospital and designated area for charting pain were the most common factors influenced pain management related to organization , Parents' reluctance to have children receive medications affects ability to manage pain of children the most common factors influenced pain management related to parents. Patient inability to communicate affects ability to manage pain of children was the most common factors influenced pain management related to factors related children. parents belief that pain medications should be given as little as possible affects nurses ability to manage pain of children were the most common factors influenced pain management related to culture.

Recommendations

- Initiate a program of on-going education for professionals in the field of pain assessment and management that focuses on methodologies, suggestions, and the proper use of assessment instruments, protocols, and charts for correct documentation of pediatric pain management.
- An in-depth look at the attitudes and practices of pediatric pain nurses will be necessary through qualitative study as well.

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