Evaluation of Nurses Practices toward the Prevention of Hepatitis C Virus among Children at Hemodialysis Units

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to Evaluate Nurses Practices toward the Prevention of Hepatitis C Virus among Children at Hemodialysis Units. A pre-experimental design used in the present study with the application of a pre-test, post-test I and post-test II approach for the study after the implementation of instructional program. Data collection was done before instruction was provided to the study, then post-test I after 7 days of starting to give the instructional program in the study, and post-test II after 2 months from post-test I of starting to give the instructional program. The period of the study was from December19th, 2022 to March19th, 2023. sample is carefully chosen which consists of (30) nurses. This table displays the overall evaluation of nurses' practices about prevention of viral hepatitis C in children; the findings reveals that nurses in the study group are showing poor level of practices during the pre-test time (53.3%, M±SD= 59.93 \pm 9.362) while they are show good level of practices during the post-test 1 (100%, M±SD= 99.07 \pm 3.432) and post-test 2 (100%, M±SD= 96.76 \pm 2.795) that indicate the significant changes in level of practices among nurses after applying the program. Nurses' practices about prevention of viral hepatitis C in children; in the study group showing poor level of practices during the pre-test time while they are showing good level of practices during the post-test 1 and post-test 2 that indicate the significant changes in level of practices during the post-test 1 and post-test 2 that indicate the significant changes in level of practices during the program. Planning for health education programs that aim to raise awareness regarding the importance of the prevention of viral hepatitis C in children who undergoing hemodialysis.

Keywords: Evaluation, Nurses, Practices, Prevention, Hepatitis C Virus, Children, Hemodialysis Units.

INTRODUCTION

It is essential to take measures to halt the spread of HCV within the pediatric population of hemodialysis facilities, and nurses play an essential part in this prevention effort. The current study will provide useful insights into the knowledge and practice of nurses, and it will assist in informing the development of successful measures for avoiding the spread of HCV in these settings [1].

The HCV virus is quite varied and might be one of six major genotypes or one of numerous subtypes. This genetic diversity makes it difficult to build a vaccine, and it also means that the progression of the disease, response to therapy, and the development of complications can vary depending on the genotype of the virus. This means that it is difficult to generate a vaccine [2].

The progression of HCV infection is typically a chronic process that can result in major liver consequences such as cirrhosis of the liver and cancer of the liver. However, due to the relatively recent development of direct-acting antiviral medicines, it is

now possible to successfully treat the vast majority of patients who have HCV [3].

The identification of antibodies to the virus in the patient's blood is the standard method for making an HCV diagnosis. After a diagnosis of HCV has been made, a liver biopsy or non-invasive testing may be carried out in order to ascertain the degree of liver damage and to direct decisions for treatment [4,5,6,7,8].

Dialysis's long and storied past is inextricably entwined with the development of pediatric nephrology and RRT generally. Pediatric hemodialysis (HD) was initially limited to a few pediatric clinics, especially for the treatment of acute intoxication, whereas the use of peritoneal dialysis (PD) in AKI has been institutionalized in many children's hospitals for many decades. Despite the fact that the use of pediatric hemodialysis (HD) was at first limited to a few pediatric clinics, the number of such facilities has increased [9,10,11,12,13].

Inadequate disinfection medical equipment, the high prevalence of HCV in the general population, the lack

of standard infection precautions, and the spread of infection from one patient to another, especially in dialysis centers with a high percentage of infected patients all contribute to the high incidence of HCV infections [14,15,16,17].

Patients undergoing hemodialysis are at an increased risk of contracting blood-borne viruses because of the possibility that they would be exposed to bloodcontaminated equipment. There is a broad range of variation in the prevalence of HCV infection in HD patients, ranging from 5% to 60%. This variation is due to a number of factors, including the prevalence of HCV in the patient's region, infection control methods, and the screening practices of previous blood transfusions [18].

Despite this, new infections are continually being reported, and HBV infection remains a major factor in the development of liver disease across the globe [19]. The key to further lowering the burden of disease is to gain an understanding of the present modes of disease transmission and the device, as well as to put suitable preventative measures into place [20].

METHODOLOGY

Design of the study: A pre-experimental design used in the present study with the application of a pre-test, post-test I and post-test II approach for the study after the implementation of instructional program. Data collection was done before instruction was provided to the study, then post-test I after 7 days of starting to give the instructional program in the study, and post-test II after 2 months from post-test I of starting to give the instructional program. The period of the study was from December19th, 2022 to March19th, 2023. sample is carefully chosen which consists of (30) nurses.

Setting of the Study: The study was conducted in Ibn Al-Baladi Teaching Hospital, Al-Karamah Teaching Hospital. These hospitals were the designated agency for data collection, because of the specialized hospitals for hemodialysis units for children, which facilitated the data collection process.

Sample of the Study: An appropriate, non-probability sample selected from nurses working in the pediatric hemodialysis unit The sample is a study group consisting of (30) nurses:

1. Ibn Al-Baladi Teaching Hospital (15) nurses.

2. Al-Karamah Teaching Hospital (15) nurses, and the study group was subjected to an educational program in Ibn Al-Baladi Teaching Hospital.

Implementation of the educational program: Implementing the educational programme, the study group was subjected to a pre-test. The educational program was implemented and delivered through five hospital lectures related to basic information related to nurses' needs regarding nursing knowledge and practices about the prevention of viral hepatitis in blood delivery units. The lectures were designed and scheduled for approximately 60 minutes. In five lectures, two methods of program management were presented in Ibn al-Baladi Education; Booklets rich in all information related to nursing interventions for hiatal hernia and lectures that relate to key topics and focus on the objectives of each lecture.

RESULTS

Table 1
Evaluation of Nurses' Practices about "Preventing Viral Hepatitis Type C among Children in Hemodialysis
Units" among Study and Control Group

Lis	Preventing Viral	Study	Group	(N=15	6)			Control Group (N=15)						
st	Hepatitis Type C	Pre-t	est	Post-	test 1	Post-	test 2	Pre-t	est	Post-	test 1	Post-	test 2	
	among Children in Hemodialysis Units	М	Eval.	М	Eval.	М	Eval.	М	Eval.	М	Eval.	М	Eval.	
1	The nurse wears gloves when connecting the dialysis patient to the hemodialysis machine.	2.00	Fair	2.93	Good	2.87	Good	1.73	Fair	1.47	Poor	1.67	Fair	
2	The nurse wears gloves when separating the dialysis patient from the hemodialysis machine.	1.87	Fair	2.93	Good	2.80	Good	1.73	Fair	1.47	Poor	1.67	Fair	
3	The nurse wears gloves when providing health care	1.87	Fair	2.87	Good	2.87	Good	1.73	Fair	1.53	Poor	1.07	Poor	

	1			n		-		-				0	
	to the patient.												
4	The nurse wears gloves when setting up the dialysis machine.	1.67	Fair	3.00	Good	2.87	Good	1.40	Poor	1.27	Poor	1.07	Poor
5	The nurse changes gloves for each patient.	1.27	Poor	2.87	Good	2.33	Fair	1.20	Poor	1.07	Poor	1.27	Poor
6	The nurse changes gloves after handling non-disposable equipment.	1.33	Poor	2.60	Good	2.53	Good	1.47	Poor	1.53	Poor	1.40	Poor
7	The nurse wears a face mask when possible blood splatters on the face.	1.47	Poor	2.93	Good	2.80	Good	1.47	Poor	1.73	Fair	1.07	Poor
8	The nurse wears glasses when it is possible to splatter blood into the eye.	1.27	Poor	2.07	Good	2.07	Good	1.07	Poor	1.00	Poor	1.20	Poor
9	The nurse wears protective clothing when blood may splatter on the clothing.	1.33	Poor	2.87	Good	2.73	Good	1.13	Poor	1.07	Poor	1.00	Poor
10	The nurse wears a head cap when blood may splatter on the head.	1.20	Poor	2.47	Good	2.60	Good	1.07	Poor	1.07	Poor	1.13	Poor
Tota	al average	1.52	Poor	2.75	Good	2.65	Good	1.40	Poor	1.32	Poor	1.25	Poor

M: Mean, Poor= 1 - 1.66, Fair= 1.67- 2.33, Good= 2.34 - 3

The table 1 presents the evaluation of nurses' practices related to "*Preventing Viral Hepatitis Type C among Children in Hemodialysis Units*"; the findings reveal that nurses in the study group show **poor** level of practices during the pre-test time (Mean= 1.52), while

they show **good** level of practices during post-test 1 (Mean= 2.75) and post-test 2 (Mean= 2.65). The nurses in the control group show **poor** level of practice during the pre-test time (Mean=1.40), post-test 1 (Mean= 1.32), and post-test 2 (mean= 1.25).

	Table 2
Evaluation of Nurses'	Practices about "Health Precautions that Prevent Transmission of Viral Hepatitis in
	Hemodialysis Units" among Study and Control Group

Lis	Health Precautions	Study	y Group	(N=15)	<u> </u>	<u>,</u>	Cont	rol Grou	up (N=	15)		
ŝŧ	that Prevent	Pre-t	est	Post-	test 1	Post-	test 2	Pre-t	est	Post-	test 1	Post-	test 2
	Transmission of Viral Hepatitis in Hemodialysis Units	Μ	Eval.	М	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.
1	The nurse washes hands with soap or an antiseptic hand lotion with water before touching the patient.	1.73	Fair	2.73	Good	2.87	Good	1.47	Poor	1.33	Poor	1.20	Poor
2	The nurse washes hands with soap or an antiseptic hand lotion with water after coming into contact with the patient.	1.80	Fair	2.80	Good	2.87	Good	1.60	Poor	1.47	Poor	1.07	Poor
3	The nurse always changes gloves for	1.33	Poor	2.87	Good	2.60	Good	1.20	Poor	1.20	Poor	1.47	Poor

	during the initiation and termination of												
	may occur, such as during the initiation and termination of dialysis.												
7	performing procedures in which blood flow or spatter may occur, such as	1.87	Fair	2.87	Good	3.00	Good	1.47	Poor	1.53	Poor	1.13	Poor
	The nurse wears personal protective equipment when												
6	The nurse asks patients to clean their hands or use an antiseptic gel when leaving the hemodialysis unit.	1.27	Poor	2.73	Good	2.67	Good	1.20	Poor	1.20	Poor	1.13	Poor
5	The nurse asks the patients to clean their hands or use an antiseptic gel upon reaching the hemodialysis unit.	1.40	Poor	2.93	Good	2.80	Good	1.07	Poor	1.13	Poor	1.07	Poor
4	The nurse wears gloves before touching any potentially contaminated surface inside the blood transfusion unit.	1.47	Poor	2.60	Good	2.67	Good	1.33	Poor	1.40	Poor	1.20	Poor
	each patient, before administering medication.												

The table 2 presents the evaluation of nurses' practices related to "*Health Precautions that Prevent Transmission of Viral Hepatitis in Hemodialysis Units*"; the findings reveal that nurses in the study group show **poor** level of practices during the pre-test time (Mean= 1.63), while they show **good** level of

practices during post-test 1 (Mean= 2.78) and post-test 2 (Mean= 2.72). The nurses in the control group show **poor** level of practice during the pre-test time (Mean=1.41), post-test 1 (Mean= 1.43), and post-test 2 (mean= 1.48).

Table 3
Evaluation of Nurses' Practices about "Equipment and Waste Management Prevents Viral Hepatitis Infection in
Hemodialysis Units" among Study and Control Group

						, ,									
Lis	Equipment and	Study	Group	(N=15	5)			Control Group (N=15)							
÷	Waste Management	Pre-te	est	Post-	test 1	Post-	test 2	Pre-t	est	Post-	test 1	Post-test 2			
	Prevents Viral														
	Hepatitis Infection in	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.		
	Hemodialysis Units														
1	The nurse disposes of	2.73	Good	2.93	Good	3.00	Good	2.67	Good	1.67	Fair	1.68	Fair		

	the single-use items required in the												
	after use on a single patient.												
2	The nurse sterilizes non-disposable materials such as (trays, blood pressure bracelets, stethoscopes, and scissors) after using them on one patient.	1.73	Fair	2.47	Good	2.60	Good	1.33	Poor	1.13	Poor	1.00	Poor
3	The nurse assigns to each patient the tools that cannot be easily disinfected, such as tape.	1.20	Poor	2.53	Good	2.53	Good	1.27	Poor	1.20	Poor	1.33	Poor
4	Do not transfer medicines between patients.	1.40	Poor	2.53	Good	2.47	Good	1.33	Poor	1.60	Poor	1.47	Poor
5	After each hemodialysis process for each patient, all potentially contaminated surface (chairs, beds, tables, etc.) are wiped with the designated disinfectant.	1.73	Fair	2.93	Good	2.73	Good	1.67	Fair	1.68	Fair	1.80	Fair
6	The nurse uses sharps containers as close as possible to the point of the dialysis machine.	2.27	Fair	3.00	Good	3.00	Good	1.67	Fair	1.87	Fair	1.80	Fair
7	The pathogen disposes of needles in closed, unbreakable containers that should not be filled more than necessary.	2.07	Fair	2.93	Good	3.00	Good	1.67	Fair	1.20	Poor	1.07	Poor
8 Tota	The pathogen uses the "no touch" technique to drop the needle into the container as the surface of the container is likely to be contaminated.	1.27 1.80	Poor Fair	2.80	Good	2.60	Good	1.27	Poor Poor	2.07	Fair Poor	2.00	Fair Poor

M: Mean, Poor= 1 – 1.66, Fair= 1.67– 2.33, Good= 2.34 – 3

The table 3 presents the evaluation of nurses' practices related to *"Equipment and Waste Management Prevents Viral Hepatitis Infection in Hemodialysis Units"*; the findings reveal that nurses in the study group show **fair** level of practices during the pre-test time (Mean= 1.80), while they show **good** level of

practices during post-test 1 (Mean= 2.76) and post-test 2 (Mean= 2.74). The nurses in the control group show **poor** level of practices during the pre-test time (Mean=1.61), post-test 1 (Mean= 1.52), and post-test 2 (mean= 1.46).

	Evaluation of Nurses' I	Practic	es about	t "Infec	ction Co	ntrol I	Precauti	ons" ai	nong Sti	udy and	d Contr	ol Grou	սթ
Lis	Infection Control	Study	Group	(N=15)			Cont	rol Grou	p (N=1	.5)		
÷	Precoutions	Pre-t	est	Post-	test 1	Post-	test 2	Pre-t	est	Post-	test 1	Post-	test 2
	riecautions	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.	Μ	Eval.
1	The nurse wears gloves when handling blood.	2.27	Fair	3.00	Good	3.00	Good	1.93	Fair	1.47	Poor	1.00	Poor
2	The nurse Wears gloves while changing dressings.	1.53	Poor	2.93	Good	2.53	Good	1.27	Poor	1.33	Poor	1.20	Poor
3	Wash hands after removing gloves, between contact with the patient, and after touching contaminated objects.	1.73	Fair	2.67	Good	2.80	Good	1.33	Poor	1.27	Poor	1.20	Poor
4	Cleans and disinfects the surfaces of hemodialysis machines and patient chairs between one patient and another.	1.67	Fair	2.93	Good	2.93	Good	1.47	Poor	1.07	Poor	1.00	Poor
5	He prepares medicines in a room or area separate from the patient's treatment area and designated for medicines only.	1.47	Poor	2.60	Good	2.67	Good	1.20	Poor	1.33	Poor	1.00	Poor
6	He delivers medicines to each patient separately and does not use regular carts to distribute medicines.	1.53	Poor	2.93	Good	2.53	Good	1.67	Fair	2.33	Poor	2.87	Good
7	Do not eat or drink in the dialysis treatment area.	2.27	Fair	2.87	Good	2.80	Good	2.40	Good	1.67	Fair	1.73	Fair
8	Cleans surfaces contaminated with blood and fluids.	2.00	Fair	2.80	Good	2.80	Good	1.67	Fair	1.00	Poor	1.00	Poor
9	Follows the manufacturer's instructions for chemical sterilizers and disinfecting agent units regarding the appropriate dilution and method of sterilization.	1.13	Poor	1.40	Poor	1.33	Poor	1.20	Poor	1.33	Poor	1.00	Poor
Tota	ıl average	1.73	Fair	2.68	Good	2.56	Good	1.57	Poor	1.42	Poor	1.33	Poor

Table 4
 about "Infection Control Precautions" among

M: Mean, Poor= 1 - 1.66, Fair= 1.67- 2.33, Good= 2.34 - 3

The table 4 presents the evaluation of nurses' practices related to "*Infection Control Precautions*"; the findings reveal that nurses in the study group show **fair** level of practices during the pre-test time (Mean=

1.73), while they show **good** level of practices during post-test 1 (Mean= 2.68) and post-test 2 (Mean= 2.56). The nurses in the control group show **poor** level of practice during the pre-test time (Mean=1.57), post-test 1 (Mean= 1.42), and post-test 2 (mean= 1.33).

 Table 5

 Overall Evaluation of Nurses' Practices about Prevention of Viral Hepatitis C among Children in Hemodialysis

 Units among Study and Control Group

	emis unong study and																							
Level	Stu	udy G	Frou	p (N=	= 15)							Control Group (N=15)											
s of pract	Pr	e-test			Ро	st-te	st 1		Ро	st-te	st 2		Pr	e-test	t		Po	st-te	st 1		Ро	st-tes	st 2	
ices	f	%	М	S. D	f	%	М	S. D	f	%	М	S. D	f	%	М	S. D	f	%	M	S. D	f	%	Μ	S. D
Poor	8	53 .3	59.93	9.362	0	0	99.07	3.432	0	0	96.67	2.795	1 5	1 0 0	50.87	1.885	1 5	1 0 0	51.00	2.330	1 5	1 0 0	50.93	1.751
Fair	7	46 .7			0	0			0	0			0	0			0	0			0	0		
Good	0	0			1 5	1 0 0			1 5	1 0 0			0	0			0	0			0	0		
Total	1 5	10 0			1 5	1 0 0			1 5	1 0 0			1 5	1 0 0			1 5	1 0 0			2 5	1 0 0		

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, M: Mean of total score, SD Standard deviation of total score Poor= 36 - 60, Fair= 60.1 - 84, Good= 84.1 - 108

This table displays the overall evaluation of nurses' practices about prevention of viral hepatitis C in children; the findings reveals that nurses in the study group are showing poor level of practices during the pre-test time (53.3%, M±SD= 59.93 \pm 9.362) while they are show good level of practices during the posttest 1 (100%, M±SD= 99.07 \pm 3.432) and post-test 2 (100%, M±SD= 96.76 \pm 2.795) that indicate the significant changes in level of practices among nurses after applying the program.

The nurses in the control group are showing poor level of practices during the pre-test time (100%, $M\pm SD=50.87\pm1.885$), post-test 1 (100%, $M\pm SD=51.00\pm2.330$), and post-test 2 (100%, $M\pm SD=50.93\pm1.751$) that indicate no significant change in nurses' practices.

DISCUSSION

The overall evaluation of nurses' practices about prevention of viral hepatitis C in children; the findings reveal that nurses in the study group are showing poor level of practices during the pre-test time while they are showing good level of practices during the post-test 1 and post-test 2 that indicate the significant changes in level of practices among nurses after applying the program. The nurses in the control group are showing poor level of practice during the pre-test time, post-test 1, and post-test 2 that indicate no significant change in nurses' practices, as shown in table (5).

The evaluation of nurses' practices related to "Preventing Viral Hepatitis Type C among Children in Hemodialysis Units"; the findings reveal that nurses in the study group show poor level of practices during the pre-test time, while they show good level of practices during post-test 1 and post-test 2. The nurses in the control group show poor level of practice during the pre-test time, post-test 1, and post-test 2, as shown in table (1).

The evaluation of nurses' practices related to "Health Precautions that Prevent Transmission of Viral Hepatitis in Hemodialysis Units"; the findings reveal that nurses in the study group show poor level of practices during the pre-test time, while they show good level of practices during post-test 1 and post-test 2. The nurses in the control group show poor level of practice during the pre-test time, post-test 1, and posttest 2, as shown in table (2).

The evaluation of nurses' practices related to "Equipment and Waste Management Prevents Viral Hepatitis Infection in Hemodialysis Units"; the findings reveal that nurses in the study group show fair level of practices during the pre-test time, while they show good level of practices during post-test 1 and post-test 2. The nurses in the control group show poor level of practice during the pre-test time, post-test 1, and post-test 2, as shown in table (3).

The evaluation of nurses' practices related to "Infection Control Precautions"; the findings reveal that nurses in the study group show fair level of practices during the pre-test time, while they show good level of practices during post-test 1 and post-test 2. The nurses in the control group show poor level of practice during the pre-test time, post-test 1, and post-test 2, as shown in table (4).

According to the researcher, after the implementation of the educational program, the nurses in the study group were able to apply the knowledge they had gained to their practices, resulting in significant improvements. In contrast, the control group, which did not receive the educational program, did not exhibit any significant improvement in their practices, indicating that a lack of knowledge and training may have been a significant barrier to their ability to improve their practices.

In contrast to our findings, the study of Ahmed [21,22,23,24,25] found that the mean scores of the examined nurses' practices linked to universal precaution were 100, which demonstrates that there are highly statistically significant differences between the nurses' practices before and after they participated in the program for six months. Regarding the washing of hands, the donning of gloves, the delivery of intramuscular injections, the preparation for the administration of hemodialysis injectable medication, and the administration of hemodialysis injectable medication.

Concerning nurses and their practices relating to universal precautions for infection control, the findings of the study showed that there was an improvement in knowledge score across the board for post-educational nurses. In the same area of research, Bayoumi and Mahmoud [26,27,28,29,30] investigated the impact of an educational program on nurses' knowledge and practice regarding the maintenance of central venous lines in pediatric hemodialysis patients, and they came to a conclusion that was analogous to the one presented here.

There were substantial variations in performance between the pre- and post-tests, as well as the retention test, for more than two-thirds of the nurses. In the same vein, the findings of the research conducted by Abd-ElHady and his colleagues [31,32,33,34] found that nurses are aware of the significance of hand washing as a means of preventing the spread of infection; however, they still do not wash their hands as often as they should. The author continued by saying that this result might be explained by the fact that nurses in that area used to rub their hands with alcohol due to the high volume of work in that sector.

Accordingly, it was found that there are highly significant differences between the conduct of the program before and after it, which may reflect the effect of the educational program on nurses' practices in infection control precautions on commencing the hemodialysis process. This was uncovered in connection with how nurses traditionally take prehemodialysis infection-prevention measures. This result was supported by E Bagheban and his co-authors [35,36,37,38,39], who came to the conclusion that

there was a substantial difference in the average score of knowledge and practices between the two groups before and after intervention.

In the same context, Ahmed [22,40,41,42,43,44] observed that most of the nurses on both shifts who were observed did not properly clean the access arm for one minute with soap and water or antiseptic soap, and they also failed to properly place the arm on a sterile drape or barrier. Both changes had the same result.

CONCLUSION

Nurses' practices about prevention of viral hepatitis C in children; in the study group showing poor level of practices during the pre-test time while they are showing good level of practices during the post-test 1 and post-test 2 that indicate the significant changes in level of practices among nurses after applying the program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning for health education programs that aim to raise awareness regarding the importance of the prevention of viral hepatitis C in children who undergoing hemodialysis.

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