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Abstracts

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Knowledge and attitudes of nurses with respect to Evidence-Based Medicine and Evidence-Based Nursing Practice

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Background

The awareness of benefits resulting from the use of the latest research findings in the professional practice of modern nurses is a prerequisite to ensuring safe nursing care satisfying the highest standards.

Objective

The aim of the study was to analyse the knowledge and attitudes of nurses with respect to Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) and Evidence-Based Nursing Practice (EBNP).

Material and methods

225 nurses taking a state examination organized by the Centre for Postgraduate Education of Nurses and Midwives in summer semester 2014 (6 male), mean age of the study population 42 years (min. 26, max. 66, SD=8,45); the length of service among the study participants amounted to 16.5 years (min. 4, max. 35, SD=5.25). Voluntary, anonymous survey, standardized Evidence-Based Practice questionnaire from University of South Australia: 7 domains (5 based on Likert's scale, 2 nominal scales),

74 questions; quantitative analysis of research findings. Statistical analysis: Cronbach's alpha coefficient, STATISTICA version 10.

Results

Cronbach's alpha coefficient for reliability analysis of the questionnaire evaluating the internal consistency of given results was high ($\alpha=0,867$), α coefficient for domains based on Likert's scale alike was high: $\alpha=0,892$, ($\alpha=0,806$ / $\alpha=0,927$, $\alpha=0,686$). 53,7% of nurses ($n=121$) intend to develop knowledge about Evidence Based Practice and skills in accessing, acquiring and appraising evidence relevant to their area of practice and read relevant literature to update knowledge (66,21%, $n=149$). For 57,7% ($n=130$) literature and research findings were useful in their day-to-day work however in making decisions about professional work 39,5% value clinical/field experience more than scientific studies ($n=89$). The main barriers to implement EBM into practice is the access to the computer (38,2%, $n=86$), workload (37,7%, $n=85$) and a lack of time (35%, $n=80$).

Conclusions

1. The questionnaire used to measure the level of knowledge and attitudes with respect to Evidence-based Nursing Practice among nurses was an efficient and reliable method.
2. The awareness of benefits resulting from using EBMP was high. The attitudes towards evidence-based nursing practice were positive, even though the supplementation of knowledge about EBNP is recommended.
3. It is necessary to expand the skills of nurses with reference to search for scientific evidence.

Keywords: evidence-based medicine, nursing, education

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