

A Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Medico-Legal Aspects in Care of Cancer Patient Among Nurses Employed in Selected Hospitals of Pune City.

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Abstract

Introduction: A medico-legal case (MLC) applies to any case of injury or medical condition in which law enforcement agencies seek to investigate and fix the responsibility regarding the said injury or medical condition. From a physician's perspective, a MLC is a medical or clinical case with legal implications.

The present study title: "A study to assess the knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in care of Cancer patient among Nurses employed in selected Hospitals of Pune city."

Material and Methods: In present study, researcher adopted descriptive research design. It was carried out on 100 samples. The Non probability purposive sampling technique method was used to data was collected using demographic profile and self-structured questionnaire. Data analysis was done mainly using descriptive statistics.

Result: Result revealed that knowledge related to medico-legal aspects in care of Cancer patient of nurses was that the majority 52 % had average knowledge, 23 % had poor knowledge and 25% had good knowledge. The mean score was 10.66 & S.D was 3.09.

Conclusion: The nurses need to increase their overall knowledge regarding the medio-legal aspects while caring for any patient, which will help her day to day practice.

Keywords: assess, level of depression, high school students

Introduction

A medico-legal case (MLC) applies to any case of injury or medical condition in which law enforcement agencies seek to investigate and fix the responsibility regarding the said injury or medical condition. From a physician's perspective, a MLC is a medical or clinical case with legal implications. In such cases presented directly to the hospital, after obtaining a detailed history and examination of the patient, the physician concludes the need for the law enforcement administration to investigate further. Besides, such cases could also be referred to the physician by the law enforcement administration for application of medical expertise and opinion to aid in the administration of justice. Several MLCs presented to the emergency medicine department include accidents, criminal or self-inflicted injuries such as fights or physical assault and battery, poisonings, road traffic accidents, burns, falls, bites, and others.

MLCs are often encountered by physicians working in the emergency medicine department of hospitals. In an MLC, the hospital medical record pertaining to the case and the medico-legal report (MLR) furnished by the physician are vital. An MLR is a report drafted by a physician for legal proceedings. It is the written evidence of the physician who has examined the case and documented the findings. In many countries like Saudi Arabia, an MLR is prepared when requested by authority. ¹

Writing the MLR efficiently will provide a comprehensive understanding of how critical the injury is and its significance, helping the law enforcement agencies to further investigate and decide. Medico-legal documentation contains the holistic documentation of the clinical aspects of a case and information required by the courts. Documentation of injury may include the type, size, location, direction of injury, age of injury, and recovery time and direction of injury. Therefore, an MLR is critical since it provides significant written evidence of the medical expert to the courts. Incorrect or incomplete reports may trigger a pause or delay in legal proceedings, and victims' rights could be violated. The most common errors in MLR are poor identification of external traumatic lesion, failure to document cooperative, and consciousness status.² Documentation of the type of injury and its description helps in inferring the causative weapon or agent. For instance, abrasions, contusions, and lacerations are caused by blunt force impact, whereas incised wounds are caused by sharp force impact.²

Need of the Study

Nurses worldwide need to continually look for “solutions, choices and outcomes for patients that represent the best available knowledge internationally” to continuously improve and authenticate nursing care. As the leaders in the nursing profession know that we are legally responsible for what we do in our action likewise nowadays the public are aware about law. Thus it is essential as a nursing professional we should be alert in our daily routine nursing care. Though in our nursing syllabus less importance is given to the legal aspects. But nurses must know the legal issues and the law that governs their profession to avoid lawsuits against them. Nurses who have the knowledge of the law and are aware of legal rights & obligations will provide effective care for clients. Nurses must take many precautions during their daily shifts. One of the most common ways to make sure on the path with patients and in the right is recording, documenting and reporting daily routines and decisions. The nurses learn in school about how to take care of a patient is not only making the right decision but also doing proper documentation and reporting. This will help nurses to be aware about the legal responsibilities & obligations, and to provide better care to the patient.⁵

Sheeba Annie Chacko and Nageshwar V, conducted a Study to Find the Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Program on Knowledge Regarding Medico-Legal Aspects in Care of Terminally Ill Patients among Staff Nurses at Selected Hospitals, Moradabad. Objective of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching program on knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses and to find the association between the knowledge of staff nurses regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients with their socio-demographic variables. A Quasi-experimental with pretest -post-design was used, on 60 staff nurses. Result of the study shows that the majority (70 %) of the staff nurses had inadequate knowledge regarding medico legal aspects in care of terminally ill patient.⁶

Aim of the Study

The aim of study is to “A study to assess the knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in care of Cancer patient among Nurses employed in selected Hospitals of Pune city.”

Methodology

In this study, the objective was to assess Knowledge of Nurses about medico-legal aspects in care of Cancer patient and to associate the knowledge findings with selected demographic variables. Researcher adopted quantitative approach with descriptive research design. The study carried out on 100 samples with non-probability convenient sampling technique. Primary data was collected using demographic profile and structured questionnaire. Reliability done on 20 sample and pilot study done on 20 sample. Reliability done with test retest method and result was 0.85 also study was physibale to conduct. Data analysis was done mainly using descriptive statistics. Prior permission was taken for study.

Result

Section I: Description of Demographic Profile:

Majority 60% were 20-30years old, 30% were 30-40 years old, and 5% were 40-50 years old. Majority 68% were female & 32% were male. Majority 55% were GNM, 37% B.SC & 8% were PBBSC. Majority 49% were 2-3

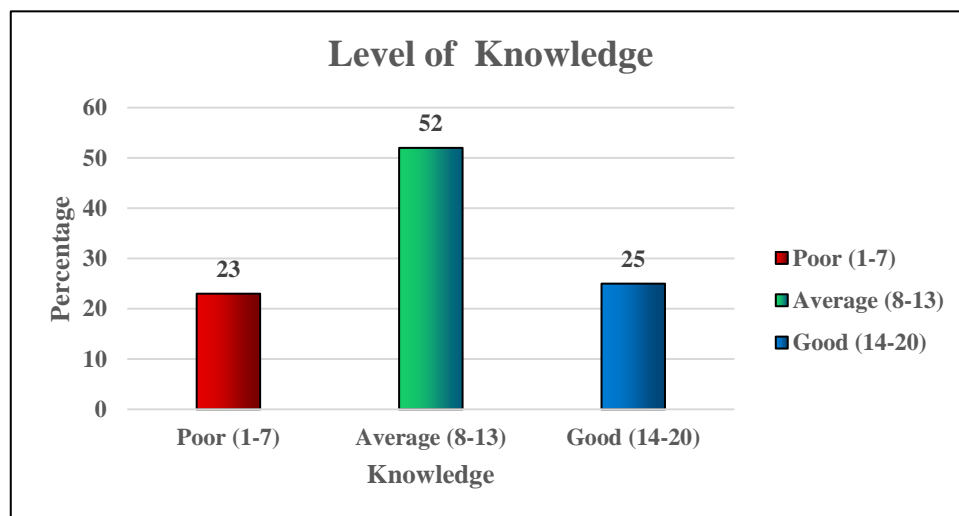
years' experience, 32% were 3-4 years, 11% were 4-5years & 8% were 1-2 years' experience. Majority 24% working in ICU, 18% working in orthopedic department, 16% working in med. Dept., 15% working in surgical dept., 14% working at pediatric dept. & 13% worked in gynecology department. Majority 100% never took Inservice education about medico legal aspect in cancer patients. Majority 100% not involved in legal case.

SECTION II: Analysis Related to Finding Related to Level Of Knowledge Medico-Legal Aspects in Care of Cancer Patient Among Nurses Employed in Hospitals.

Table 1:

Level of Knowledge	f	%	Mean	SD
Poor (1-7)	23	23	10.66	3.09
Average (8-13)	52	52		
Good (14-20)	25	25		

Table no-1: The majority, 52 % have average knowledge, 23 % were having poor knowledge & 25% having good knowledge. The mean score was 10.66 & S.D was 3.09



SECTION III: Analysis related to association the knowledge findings with selected demographic variables

Age, gender, Qualification, area of working, in-service education & involvement in legal case are not associated with significant level of 0.05.

Discussion

The above study shows that the demographic variable that Majority 60% were 20-30years old, 30% were 30-40 years old, and 5% were 40-50 years old. Majority 68% were female & 32% were male. Majority 55% were GNM, 37% B.SC & 8% were PBBSC. Majority 49% were 2-3 years' experience, 32% were 3-4 years, 11% were 4-5years & 8% were 1-2 years' experience. Majority 24% working in ICU, 18% working in orthopedic department, 16% working in med. Dept., 15% working in surgical dept., 14% working at pediatric dept. & 13% worked in gynecology department. Majority 100% never took inservice education about medico legal aspect in cancer patients. Majority 100% were not involved in legal case. Knowledge related to medico-legal aspects in care of

Cancer patient. The majority, 52 %, have average knowledge, 23 % had poor knowledge & 25% having good knowledge. The mean score was 10.66 & S.D was 3.09.

The study can be discussed with a similar by Hemam Sangeeta Devi and Dr. Mahadeo B. Shinde conducted a study on A Study on Knowledge of Legal Aspects Related to Cancer among Nurses. The results shows that 62% of the samples had 2 – 3 years of experience & 48% of them are currently working in the medical oncology settings. 70% of them did not attend any in – service education regarding medico legal responsibilities of nurses & 96% of them were never involved in a legal case. There was a significant (P0.05) association between the level of knowledge of the staff nurses and their professional qualifications. Since the calculated value of p (0.04) is less than 0.05 it can be concluded that there is a significant association between professional qualification & knowledge scores. It was also found that 64% of graduate nurses scored in the range of 20 – 30.

Conclusion

The study findings indicate a notable distribution of knowledge levels among nurses regarding medio-legal aspects in cancer patient care. The data reveals that a significant portion, comprising 52%, possess an average level of knowledge in this domain. However, concerning trends emerge with 23% exhibiting poor knowledge and 25% demonstrating good knowledge. These figures underscore a critical need to address and enhance understanding within this crucial area of healthcare practice.

The study further highlights statistical insights into the mean score and standard deviation (SD) of the participants. The calculated mean score of 10.66 signifies the average performance across the cohort, with a standard deviation of 3.09 indicating the dispersion or variability of scores around this mean. These statistical measures provide deeper insights into the level and consistency of knowledge among nurses.

Conflict of Interest

The authors certify that they have no involvement in any organization or entity with any financial or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this paper.

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