

ASSESSMENT OF LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE OF BASIC LIFE SUPPORT ALGORITHM AMONG NURSING STAFF IN A TERTIARY CARE TEACHING HOSPITAL

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Abstract

Background: Cardiac arrests and accidents are the most common emergencies with grave consequences. These emergencies can be managed efficiently by proper knowledge and practice of resuscitation skills

Methods: A cross-sectional Analytic study was conducted among the nursing staff. Data was collected using structured questionnaire which collected information regarding the basic demographic factors, knowledge regarding the BLS resuscitation.

Results: 67.00% nursing staff had medium knowledge followed by 20.00% nursing staff had good knowledge and 13.00% nursing staff had poor knowledge.

Conclusion: Awareness of Basic Life Support (BLS) among nurses staff is poor and needs to be improved.

Keywords: BLS, Knowledge, Nursing staff, Knowledge

Introduction:

Cardiac arrests and accidents are the most common emergencies with grave consequences. These emergencies can be managed efficiently by proper knowledge and practice of resuscitation skills

Basic Life Support (BLS) includes recognition of signs of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), heart attack, stroke and foreign-body airway obstruction (FBAO), cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator (AED).¹

It is very important that every person in the community know about Basic Life Support to save lives and improve the quality of community health. At least the doctors, nursing and paramedical staff are expected to know about it, as they are frequently facing life threatening situations and the knowledge of BLS will be definitely useful. In this study we wanted to investigate the awareness of Basic Life Support among health sector persons.²

material and methods

Study design- It was a cross-sectional analytical study.

Study period- Six months

Study population - Study subjects were the Nursing staff

Information was collected using a pre-tested validated questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed based on the available literature and consisted of three parts. The first part collected socio demographic information about the participant. The second part had seventeen questions assessing the knowledge of BLS resuscitation algorithm; each correct answer was scored 1 and each wrong answer was scored as 0. Those who obtained a total score of less than 6 were considered to have poor knowledge, 7-12 score were considered to have medium knowledge and those who got score equal or higher than score 13 were considered to have good knowledge. Questionnaires were completed anonymously, "in a class room" setting. The final part included questions assessing information concerning the respondents' past experience in BLS training and their attitude towards receiving training in BLS as part of the curriculum. Every attempt was taken to avoid discussion among participants during the time of completing the questionnaire. The participants were motivated to fill the Performa completely. The participants who could not be contacted even after 3 attempts were excluded from the study.

Statistical analysis -Data was entered in Microsoft Office Excel and analysis was done using SPSS Version 16.0. Frequency & median was calculated based on the type of variable. Standard Error, Inter-quartile range and 95% confidence interval was calculated. The level of significance was taken at a p value of <0.05.

Results

Table 1: Socio-demographic variable

Mean age	29.23±7.84 Yrs
Male : Female	39:61

Majority of them were belonging to the age group 21-45 years. Mean age of staff was 29.23±7.84 Yrs. Male: female ratio was 39:61.

Table 2: Knowledge regarding BLS

Knowledge	No of staff	Percentage
Poor knowledge	13	13.00%
Medium knowledge	67	67.00%
Good knowledge	20	20.00%
Total	100	100.00%

67.00% nursing staff had medium knowledge followed by 20.00% nursing staff had good knowledge and 13.00% nursing staff had poor knowledge.

Discussion

67.00% nursing staff had medium knowledge followed by 20.00% nursing staff had good knowledge and 13.00% nursing staff had poor knowledge in our study.

A study conducted by Sreedhara Avabratha *et al*³ revealed that only 13.3% of the interns had good

knowledge regarding BLS and the average score was 9.05. Raghava Sharma *et al*⁴ in their study reported that 19% of medical interns and 0% of dental interns had complete knowledge while 44% of medical interns and 88% of dental interns had poor knowledge regarding BLS.

The study conducted by Chandrasekaran S *et al*⁵ reported that in their study 83% of medical students and 98.4% of nursing students scored less than 50% of marks and the practicing and teaching doctors scored less than the nursing teaching faculty .

Conclusion

Awareness of Basic Life Support (BLS) among nurses staff is poor and needs to be improved.

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