Abstract

Safety Practices Employed by Perioperative Nurses in Selected Tertiary Health Institutions in South Western Nigeria

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Abstract

Background: Surgery plays an increasingly prominent role in healthcare around the world and growing attention is being focused on the safety and quality of such care. Half of all surgery related iatrogenic complications are avoidable and breakdown in communication, ineffective teamwork, and non- adherence of surgical team nurses inclusive to standard practice regarding sterilization, aseptic technique and prevention of wrong patient and site are contributing factors.

Aim: The aim of the study was to assess various safety practices employed by nurses to ensure patients safety in operating theatre.

Methods: Descriptive cross sectional design was adopted and the setting of the study were four selected tertiary health institutions in south western Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique was used to select 211 respondents from the setting. Yamane's formulae was used to determine the sample size. Twenty point scale was used for knowledge with yes/no option and the score was categorized into poor (10-11), fair (12-13) and good (14-20). Questionnaire and observation were used to collect data between January and April 2015. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data with the aid of Statistical Product and Service Solution (SPSS) version 20. The P values was considered significant at >0.05

Results: The results showed that (80.0%) of the respondents in both state and federal institutions had good knowledge about safety practices. Findings from questionnaire revealed that identification of patient at the red line as a measure to ensure patient safety in theatre had the highest mean (2.45 ± 1.42). Result from the observation revealed that use of operation schedule to send for patient from the ward had the highest means 6.91 ± 0.28 while only57% of the respondents were using WHO surgical safety checklist. Findings also showed that socio-demographic and professional characteristics are predictors of good safety practices ($F_{4,196} = 5.047$, $p < .001$) .

Conclusions: This study concluded that Perioperative nurses have good knowledge about safety practices and they engaged in standard safety practices in the operating theatres but WHO surgical safety have not been fully adopted in the selected theatres.

Key words: Safety Practices, Knowledge, Perioperative, Teaching Hospital, Western Nigeria .