

Abstract

Spina bifida is a serious neural tube birth defect and most common form of spinal dysraphisms that affects live births worldwide. Egypt has a high incidence of neural tube defects. Spina bifida results from failure of proper fusion in the spinal regions of the neural tube during early embryogenesis within the first days following conception. **Aim:** The study aimed to evaluate the effect of educational program on nurses' knowledge and practice regarding care of neonates with spina bifida. **Research design:** A quasi-experimental design was utilized to conduct this study. **Setting:** The current study was conducted at surgical neonatal intensive care units in Benha Specialized Pediatric Hospital affiliated to Ministry of Health and population and Abou El reesh hospital affiliated to Cairo University. **Subjects:** A purposive sample of 53 nurses, involved 25 nurses from Benha Specialized Pediatric Hospital and 28 nurses from Abou El reesh hospital. **Tools:** Two tools were utilized for data collection; an Arabic structured interviewing questionnaire sheet to assess personal characteristics of nurses and neonates, nurses' knowledge and an observational checklists to assess nurses' practice regarding care of neonates with spina bifida. **Results:** There were statistically significant differences in nurse's knowledge and practice regarding care of neonates with spina bifida pre and post program implementation. **Conclusion:** The educational program was effective in improving nurses' knowledge and practice regarding care provided to neonates with spina bifida. **Recommendation:** Emphasizing on the importance of continuing in-service education proper for nurses regarding proper care provided to neonates with spina bifida to keep them up-to date in their knowledge and practice .Comprehensive booklet should be available in the surgical neonatal intensive care units as areference