

Knowledge and Practice of Nurses toward Preventive Measures of Elderly Patients with Viral Hepatitis B and C in the Dialysis Unit

ABSTRACT

Background: Compliance with hemodialysis (HD) precautions is essential in preventing the transmission of viral hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and hepatitis B (HBV) in hemodialysis units. **Aim of study:** the study aimed to assess knowledge and practice of nurses toward Preventive measures of elderly patients with viral hepatitis B and C in the dialysis unit in Beni-Suef governorate. **Research design:** A descriptive design was used to achieve the aim of the current study. **Setting,** Beni-Suef university hospital and Elwasta general hospital **Sample:** A convenient sample of all hemodialysis nurses (76 nurses) in two hemodialysis units at Beni-suef and Elwasta general hospital, Egypt; include 42 nurses, form Beni-Suef university hospital and 34 nurses, from Elwasta general hospital. **Tools:** one tool were designed to collect data pertinent to the study: Self-administered questionnaire to assess the subjects' level of knowledge, and observational checklist, used to assess subjects' level of practice. **Results:** More than half of nurses have fair level of total knowledge. Less than three quarters of nurses were incompetent regarding general preventive practices related to dialysis unit. **Conclusion:** Less than half of nurses have satisfactory of total knowledge about preventive measures of elderly patients with viral hepatitis B&C in dialysis unit. More than half of nurses have unsatisfactory regarding practices toward patient care. **Recommendations:** Conducting standards educational program that emphasize on improving knowledge level regarding prevention of viral hepatitis B&C transmission in dialysis units in order to raise awareness and correct misconceptions.

Keywords Nurses' knowledge, Practice, Hepatitis C&B virus, prevention, Hemodialysis.