

Investigating the level of nurses knowledge on vascular access

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Introduction

Nurses' expertise in vascular access (VA) cannulation and care is essential and has a direct influence on access survival, patient mortality and morbidity.

Availability of educational materials and educational program will raise knowledge and awareness for access management and define best practices for VA cannulation and care.

Objectives

To assess the current situation before any decisions and recommendations are made for future education.

To assess the current knowledge of VA and available educational programmes for dialysis nurses in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

Methods

There are two functional organisation models of dialysis service in BiH: public hospital clinics (PH) and clinics established on public private partnership (PPP).

A questionnaire with 11 questions was developed and distributed to nurses at all dialysis clinics in BiH. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 78.7% Nurses.

Question	Correct/expected answer	PH % of correct answers	PPP % of correct answers
Dou you have a formal educational program and mentorship for nurses?	Yes	26% *	100%
Do you practise hand rubbing with alcohol according to WHO recommendation?	Yes	24.9%	100%
Do patients wash the fistula arm before connection?	Yes	42%	100%
How many cannulation techniques do you know?	3 techniques	7.7%	90%
What is the expected blood flow through an AVF?	< 600ml/min.	3.8%	62.75%
Beside dilatation what is most important change on blood vessel after AVF creation?	Arterialisation	8.3%	2.1%

Table 1: Most important survey findings

* The question about a formal educational programme was answered by nurses from the same clinic with both Yes and No.

Results

The most important finding was that educational programmes were mainly used by clinics owned by private public partnerships. Most questions related to basic knowledge about VA were correctly answered in all clinics. Questions related to AVF development, cannulation practice and care were mainly answered correctly by nurses of clinics with an existing educational programme, although a few questions were answered incorrectly by almost all dialysis nurses.

Conclusion/Application to practice

Education programs for dialysis nurses on vascular access, especially on AVF cannulation and care, should be implemented in dialysis clinics and supported with relevant policies and guidelines translated into the local language to provide appropriate information and guidance for regular education in daily practice.

VA Cannulation and Care, Nursing Best Practice for AVF is translated and distributed in BiH, most important survey findings are presented. Based on this results, local Medical Doctors Association for Nephrology and Transplantation organize multidisciplinary workshop dedicated to VA. They also decided to have at least one presentation dedicated to VA in all future meetings and to establish formal educational program in public dialysis clinics

References

1. Parisotto, MT and Pancirova, J, eds. Vascular Access Cannulation and Care. A Nursing Best Practice Guide for Arteriovenous Fistula 2nd ed.; 2015. ISBN: 978-84-617-0567-2. Available from <http://www.edtnaerca.com/pages/education/publication.php>