

Knowledge of vascular access dialysis patients care by nurses from Silesia

Ewa Drzymała

Polish Nephrology Nurses Association

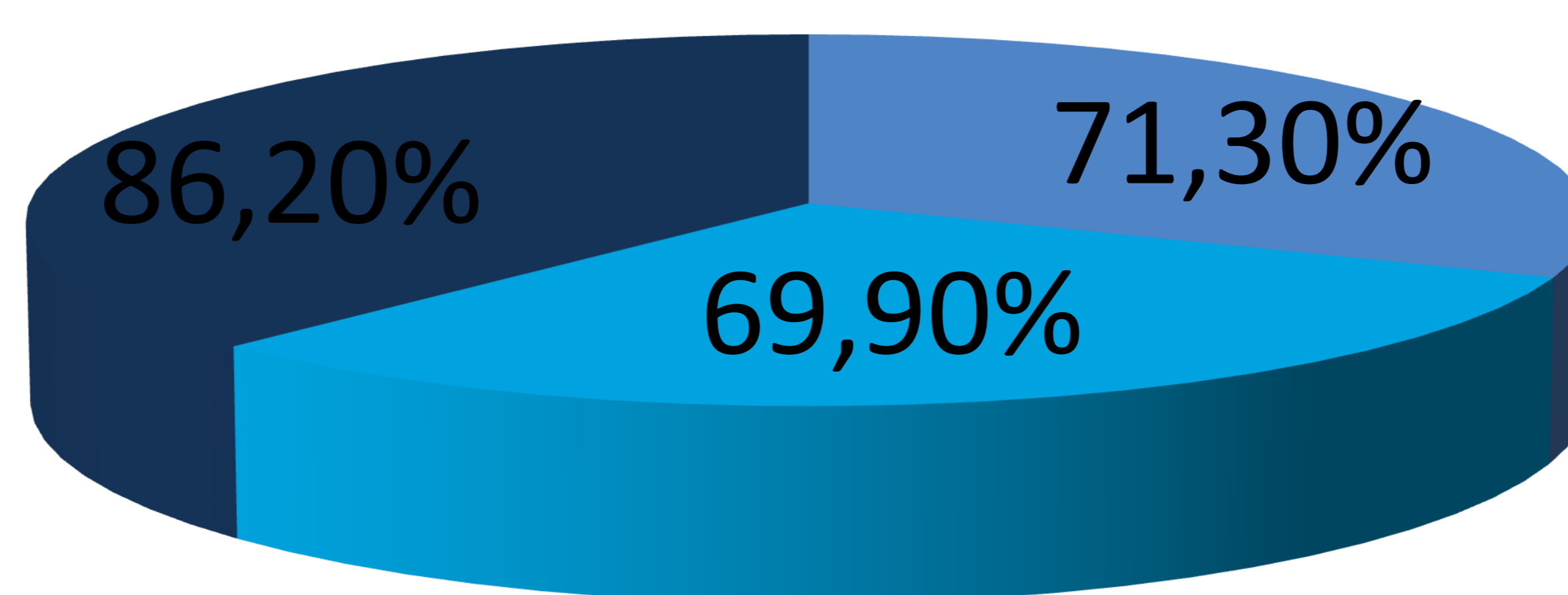


The increasing number of patients on dialysis requires directly from the nursing staff amending or acquiring new knowledge in the field of maintenance dialysis catheters and fistulas. It also involves improving the quality of medical services, and above all has a positive effect on the success of hemodialysis and improves the quality of life of patients on dialysis.

Aim

The study was designed to evaluate and compare Surgical, Laryngological and Nephrology Units nurses' knowledge of the rules of caring for a patient's vascular access for hemodialysis and for opportunities to improve care for these patients.

- surgical nurses
- laryngological nurses
- nephrology nurses



Results

Data analysis showed that correct answers to all questions were given by on average 69.9% of laryngological nurses, 71.3% of surgical nurses and 86.2% of nephrology nurses.

Conclusions

1. Knowledge of care of arteriovenous fistulas and hemodialysis catheters varied among nurses from surgical, laryngological and nephrology wards. Furthermore all nurses had insufficient knowledge.
2. The best results among all surveyed were obtained from nephrology nurses, which proves that knowledge of the care of vascular accesses to a large extent depends on working position and the specifics of the ward.
3. The greater was the seniority of nephrology nurses, the greater knowledge of the care of vascular accesses for hemodialysis they had.
4. Surgical and laryngological nurses' level of knowledge of the care of vascular accesses was higher among nurses with higher education, which did not apply to nephrology nurses.
5. There is a need to implement training for nurses regarding vascular accesses care.

Methods

The subjects were 85 nurses, including 30 surgical nurses, 30 nephrology nurses and 25 laryngological nurses from Silesia, Poland.

The study was conducted between August and October 2011. Diagnostic survey with proprietary questionnaires was used as a method.