

Review & research

Attitudes of intensive care unit and cardiac care unit nurses on pressure ulcer prevention

Introduction and objectives: Pressure ulcer prevention is one of the main duties of nurses who are taking care of hospitalised patients in intensive care units. How nurses deliver care to patients can be influenced by this matter. The aim of this study was to examine the attitude of intensive care unit (ICU) and cardiac care unit (CCU) nurses on pressure ulcer prevention. **Methods:** This descriptive-analytic study was carried out in three teaching hospitals of Qazvin University of Medical Sciences in Iran. The study population consisted of all the ICU and CCU nurses of these hospitals. A convenient sampling method was used to select the participants. The Attitude Towards Pressure Ulcer Questionnaire, which was designed by Zena Moore and Patricia Price, was used in order to examine the nurses' attitude. **Results:** A total of 116 participants were selected for the study, of which 95 of them were working at ICU and 21 at CCU. Of all the nurses, 106 (91.4%) of them expressed that they had received the necessary training relating to possible risk factors and effective prevention strategies during their education. However, 98 (84.5%) of the participants stated that more training relating to controlling and preventing the occurrence of pressure ulcers is going to be needed. In response to questions about attitude, nurses reported a positive attitude on most of the questions they were asked. **Conclusion:** ICU and CCU nurses working in Iran have a positive attitude towards pressure ulcer prevention. Further studies are recommended in this regard.

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Although there have been numerous attempts to prevent the occurrence of pressure ulcers, this type of wounds still exists in most sections of a hospital (Shokati Ahmadabad et al, 2016). The incidence of pressure ulcer can be associated with pain (Gunes, 2008), decreased patients' quality of life (Gorecki et al, 2009), and increased costs in healthcare system (Dealey et al, 2012). One group of patients, who are under a high risk of pressure ulcers, is those hospitalised in the critical care units (Alberden et al, 2017). In most studies conducted in the critical care unit, a relatively high prevalence and incidence of pressure ulcer has been reported. For instance, the incidence of pressure ulcer in the He et al (2016) study, which was conducted in 2016 in China, has been estimated 31.4% in intensive care units (ICUs). Similar Iranian studies in this regard indicate a high prevalence of this injury

in the critical care units, as well (Senmar et al, 2017), ranging from 25% to 45% (Akbari Sari et al, 2014; Shokati Ahmadabad et al, 2016).

Like most preventable injuries in hospitalised patients, in which nurses play a significant role, they play a key role in the pressure ulcer prevention (Usher et al, 2018) and it can be said that they have a primary role in this regard. In Iran, like other countries, significant attention has been given to the pressure ulcer prevention in recent years. The healthcare system has paid particular attention to pressure ulcers in its evaluations and consider the high incidence and prevalence of pressure ulcer as a negative point of nursing cares (Iranmanesh et al, 2013).

Based on the importance of pressure ulcer issue, Iranian nursing researchers have paid particular attention to this problem in recent years and conducted numerous studies in this regard. The target audience in most Iranian