

# Exploring Knowledge and Perception of Palliative Care Among Nurses Working in the Acute Care Setting

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## Objectives

- Explore knowledge and perception among nurses working in the acute care setting.
- Evaluate if palliative care education intervention influenced the knowledge and perception of registered nurses (RNs) regarding palliative care.

## Methods

- Utilized a thirty minute slide presentation "introduction to Palliative Care .
- Presented the slide presentation to 30 registered nurses (RNs) in the ICU in a metropolitan hospital.
- Participants responded to 20 questions pretest and posttest from the validated Palliative Care Quiz for Nursing PCQN), Table 2, (Ross, McDonald, & Guinness, 1996), before and after the study intervention slide presentation.
- The format of the tool was modified in the format of a Likert-Scale.

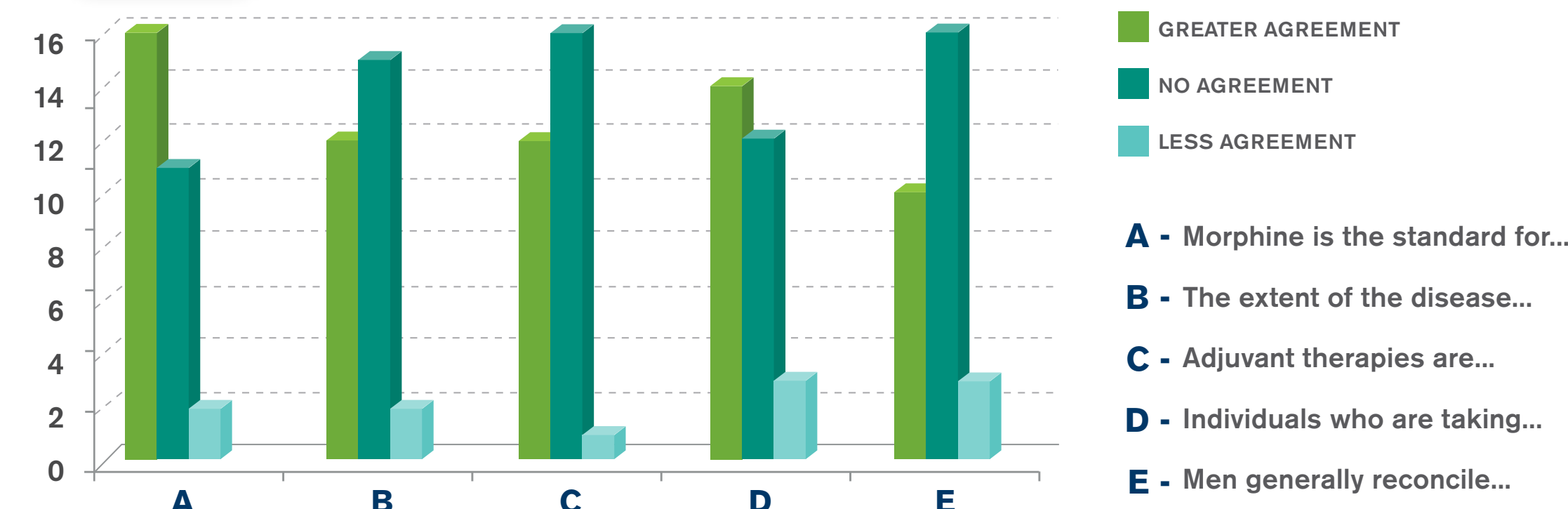
## Background

- Palliative care constitute an instrumental component of managing patients with health conditions and illnesses.
- National and international hospital systems have developed, and continue to employ, specialized palliative care teams to facilitate the delivery of palliative care teams (Beckstrand, Moore, Callister, & Bond, 2009).
- The growing number of people seeking palliative care makes it impossible for PC teams to engage in patients needing palliative care.
- The preceding challenge underscores the necessity of engaging all nursing staff in delivery of palliative care

**Table 2 DISTRIBUTION OF SUBJECTS' RESPONSES TO PRE/POSTTEST PCQN**

Statement		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	"z"	Wilcoxon Test
1	Pretest	34.5	31.0	17.2	10.3	6.9	-1.22	.223
	Posttest	34.5	27.6	3.4	0.0	34.5		
2	Pretest	13.8	6.9	13.8	55.2	10.3	-3.02	.002
	Posttest	34.5	27.6	3.4	0.0	34.5		
3	Pretest	10.3	44.8	6.9	27.6	10.3	-2.14	.032
	Posttest	6.9	27.6	10.3	27.6	27.6		
4	Pretest	6.9	3.4	3.4	55.2	31.0	-2.95	.003
	Posttest	0.0	3.4	0.0	37.9	58.6		
5	Pretest	10.3	34.5	17.2	10.3	27.6	-.228	.820
	Posttest	17.2	24.1	17.2	10.3	31.0		
6	Pretest	0.0	34.5	6.9	55.2	3.4	-.753	.452
	Posttest	3.4	27.6	6.9	41.4	20.7		
7	Pretest	17.2	41.4	10.3	24.1	6.9	-1.48	.138
	Posttest	31.0	44.8	0.0	10.3	13.8		
8	Pretest	0.0	0.0	0.0	62.1	37.9	-2.24	.025
	Posttest	0.0	3.4	0.0	17.2	79.3		
9	Pretest	17.2	62.1	10.3	10.3	0.0	-.319	.749
	Posttest	34.5	31.0	17.2	13.8	3.4		
10	Pretest	3.4	20.7	3.4	58.6	13.8	-1.32	.188
	Posttest	6.9	6.9	10.3	37.9	37.9		
11	Pretest	17.2	55.2	17.2	10.3	0.0	-2.00	.046
	Posttest	13.8	44.8	10.3	20.7	10.3		
12	Pretest	27.6	17.2	20.7	20.7	13.8	-1.85	.064
	Posttest	10.3	24.1	13.8	20.7	31.0		
13	Pretest	24.1	48.3	6.9	10.3	10.3	-.965	.334
	Posttest	44.8	27.6	3.4	13.8	10.3		
14	Pretest	3.4	3.4	34.5	44.8	13.8	-1.38	.166
	Posttest	0.0	10.3	13.8	48.3	27.6		
15	Pretest	24.1	37.9	6.9	20.7	10.3	-1.79	.073
	Posttest	13.8	31.0	10.3	31.0	13.8		
16	Pretest	0.0	24.1	37.9	27.6	10.3	-.332	.740
	Posttest	6.9	34.5	6.9	27.6	24.1		
17	Pretest	3.4	20.7	27.6	37.9	10.3	-1.34	.180
	Posttest	0.0	31.0	10.3	31.0	27.6		
18	Pretest	0.0	6.9	13.8	58.6	20.7	-.878	.380
	Posttest	0.0	10.3	0.0	58.6	31.0		
19	Pretest	10.3	34.5	34.5	20.7	0.0	-.956	.339
	Posttest	24.1	44.8	13.8	6.9	10.3		
20	Pretest	17.2	34.5	6.9	31.0	10.3	-1.33	.183
	Posttest	20.7	20.7	3.4	27.6	27.6		

**Table 3 EXPLORING THE PERCEPTION OF PALLIATIVE CARE AMONG NURSES WORKING IN THE ACUTE SETTING (ICU)**



## Abstract

The significant increase in global population, coupled with improved life expectancy means that the number of people in need of palliative will continue to grow steadily. However, most nurses are not prepared adequately to provide quality palliative care services. The purpose of this study was to determine whether registered nurses' knowledge and perceptions of palliative care influences the utilization of palliative care services in acute care settings. The research employed an experimental quantitative pilot study design with a pre and post survey. The study included a purposive sample of 30 registered nurses working in an acute care settings (ICU). The nurses completed the Palliative Quiz for Nurses (PCQN) questionnaire before and after watching a slide presentation (educational intervention). The findings of this study have shown that at least half of the nurses have good knowledge about palliative care. The participants are principally conversant with effective management of pain, which they cited as the cornerstone of palliative care. The referral of patients to palliative care emerged as a significant indicator of nurses' knowledge and perception regarding palliative care. On the other hand, the nurses identified palliative care educational intervention as a fundamental boost to their level of knowledge. The overall knowledge of nurses regarding palliative care is poor, as documented by this study and findings from previous investigations. This study has established the need of further education and in-service training to enhance nurses' level of knowledge and attitudes toward palliative care.

### Results:

- Almost half of the nurses had a poor knowledge level of palliative care (48.3 %) compared to 44.1% (good knowledge) and 7.6% (fair knowledge).
- Clinical significance was indicated, the level of agreement changed between pretest and posttest, which exemplifies an improved level of knowledge regarding palliative care post slide presentation.

### Implications:

- Future research could assess the methods of knowledge construction to understand factors influencing the application of palliative care among nurses.
- Further research for developing evidenced-base for integrating palliative care into nursing curricular and continuing nursing education.
- Education intervention tested on a larger sample and multiple clinical sites and aspects of palliative care: In patient; outpatient; Home-based.
- Further research on the educational intervention slide presentation.

## Background (cont.)

- Nurses play a critical role providing palliative care throughout the various disease stages even after the patient dies.
- The lack of adequate knowledge is a significant obstacle to nurses as they endeavor to deliver high quality palliative care.
- Nurses and other clinicians are inadequately prepared to provide optimal palliative care (Prompahakul, Nilmanat, and Kongsuwan, 2011),
- The perception of nurses influence the application of palliative care.

## Conclusion

- Findings demonstrated that nurses had limited knowledge of palliative care
- Findings concur with replicate previous reports of nurses' inadequate knowledge in multiple issues regarding palliative care.
- Findings suggest a need for nurses to enhance their knowledge and perception of palliative care.
- Findings demonstrated clinical significance and demonstrated at least half of the nurses have good knowledge about palliative care.
- Participants are principally conversant with effective management of pain, which they cited as the cornerstone of palliative care.
- Referral of palliative care emerged as a significant indicator of nurses knowledge and perception regarding palliative care.
- Nurse identified the palliative educational intervention as a fundamental boost to their level of knowledge and perception of palliative care.
- 91.3% of the participants supported the implementation of the educational program to enhance their knowledge and skills about palliative care.
- The educational intervention constituted a mediating factor that influence nurses' knowledge and perception regarding palliative care.