AN EVALUATION OF THE NEONATAL PALLIATIVE CARE ATTITUDE SCALE (NiPCAS)

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Objective

- Evaluate the rigor of the NiPCAS, which was developed by Victoria Kain to measure nurses’ attitudes about neonatal palliative care (PC) practices
- Provide information about a measurement relative to the understudied area of neonatal PC in the NICU setting, which can be easily administered

Evaluation of Scale Development

- Conceptual framework that guided development was diffusion of innovations
- Scale with 7 demographical & 26 attitudinal items was created after ROL & pilot study
- Face & content validity established by international expert panel
- Reliability established by Mean Item Intraclass Coefficient Correlation (r = 0.77)
- Bland-Altman Plot - level of agreement between T1 & T2 within 95% CI (M = 1.37, SD 5.31) Cronbach’s a of repeated measures = .87
- Population study (N = 645) established construct validity with EFA classified scales and subscales

Conclusion & Implications

- Small sample size of pilot (T1: N = 28; T2: N = 16) limited determination of reliability
- Further instrument testing using CFA is required to evaluate reliability
- Studies involving other clinicians are needed
- Culture, context & setting can affect results
- Similar research findings in U.S., Taiwan & Iran
- Evidence-based care guidelines, adaptable to individual NICUs, must be implemented
- Supportive measures for clinicians are required
- Formal training in PC skills can improve care

Background

- Infants can live with life-limiting conditions for various periods of time, & focus of care can shift from rescue to palliation
- Palliative care is underutilized in the neonatal population
- Clinicians have been challenged to consistently provide quality care at end-of-life

Results

- Factors that either promoted or hindered neonatal PC:
  - Organization (M = 3.3, SD = 0.95, a = .73)
  - Clinical (M = 3.2, SD = 0.97, a = .63)
- 5 facilitators & 3 barriers were noted
- Interpretive study using focus groups (N = 24) confirmed & further clarified results

References