

Nursing Vigilance in Nurses Working at the Intensive Care Units

Abstract

Background and aim: Vigilance is an essential element in intensive care nursing. Nurses should be vigilant about changes in patients' clinical conditions and carefully evaluate them to make appropriate clinical decisions and promote their safety and health. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine nursing vigilance in nurses working in the intensive care units (ICU) of educational and medical centers in Ardabil, Iran, in 2019.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional descriptive-analytical study performed on 192 ICU nurses. The data was obtained using demographic characteristics and nursing vigilance questionnaires. The recent survey included three subscales: timely diagnosis of changes in patients' clinical condition, knowing patients' general condition for recognizing patterns, and clinical decision-making. SPSS software version 24 was used for statistical analysis.

Results: The mean total vigilance score was obtained 3.86 ± 0.23 . The mean scores of timely diagnosis of changes, recognizing patterns, and clinical decision-making subscales were 4.07 ± 0.26 , 04.04 ± 0.41 , and 4.44 ± 0.25 , respectively. There was a significant positive relationship between the participants' age and the score of the clinical decision-making subscale ($p = 0.022$). No significant relationships were observed between the total or subscale vigilance scores and other demographic characteristics.

Conclusion: We assessed ICU nurses' vigilant behaviors and found that the mean vigilance score was higher than the expected average, indicating a high clinical vigilance level in our participants. The score of the clinical decision-making subscale was lower compared with others. A significant positive relationship was noticed between the participants' age and the score of the clinical decision-making subscale. These results suggest the need for effective educational interventions to boost clinical decision-making skills in ICU nurses, especially younger ones. This study highlighted the importance of nursing vigilance in the ICU, and a better understanding of these behaviors and professional responsibilities can warrant high-quality nursing care.

Keywords: Nursing vigilance, Intensive care unit, Nurse