ASSESSMENT OF PATIENTS RECEIVING COMPLEX PAIN MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS: AN EDUCATIONAL MODULE OF EPIDURAL ANALGESIA USING STANDARDIZED PATIENTS FOR REGISTERED NURSES

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INTRODUCTION / AIM

Registered nurses (RNs) receive didactic training regarding caring for patients receiving epidural analgesia. Although nurses are tested on their knowledge following this training, their ability to critically think through adverse events is not assessed.

The objective of this study was to fill a gap in RNs' education related to caring for patients receiving epidural analgesia through the use of simulation education, to improve patient safety.

METHODS

The study included an education intervention, which consisted of a 4-hour workshop. Research ethics board approval was obtained at North York General Hospital. After obtaining informed consent RNs completed a pre-workshop evaluation of skill performance where they completed a Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) where they demonstrated an epidural assessment a standardized patient. RNs then completed a demographic and knowledge questionnaire followed by a lecture regarding care, management and assessment of patients who are receiving epidural analgesia. Following the lecture, RNs practiced epidural assessments within small groups. A post-workshop OSCE, questionnaire and de-brief was completed prior to the end of the workshop. Thirty-seven RNs completed the workshop. The mean age of participants was 43 years. The mean number of years practicing as an RN was 13 and the mean years of experience caring for patients with epidural analgesia was 4.6. There was a significant increase in the number of questions answered correctly between the pre-test and the post-test. There was also a significant improvement in OSCE performance during the second OSCE.

RESULTS

Thirty-seven RNs completed the workshop. The mean age of participants was 43 years. The mean number of years practicing as an RN was 13 and the mean years of experience caring for patients with epidural analgesia was 4.6. For the pre and post knowledge questionnaire, there was significant improvement in 8/21 of the questions. Improvements in the answers on the questionnaire were most frequently related to epidural pharmacology and assessment of block questions. For the pre and post workshop OSCE, there was a significant increase in the number of correct procedures performed in all categories except equipment.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

The results of this study showed that it is feasible to use standardized patients as an approach for RN's to learn the safe care of individuals receiving epidural analgesia. It also showed an
improvement in RN's application of the critical assessment components for individuals receiving epidural analgesia.

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