The purpose of the quality improvement project was to increase emergency department nurses' knowledge of pain management and utilization of pain assessment guidelines, resources, and policies. By nurses having adequate education, they can provide timely and efficient care to support optimal patient outcomes, improve patient comfort, and improve overall patient satisfaction. The nursing theory used for this quality improvement project was the middle range theory of acute pain management (Good & Moore, 1996).

**METHODS**

- A pre and post-test method was used to evaluate nurses’ knowledge and attitudes regarding pain management.
- The Knowledge and Attitudes Survey Regarding Pain (KASRP; Ferrel & McCaffery, 2014) tool was used to assess nurses’ knowledge and attitudes regarding pain management which included aspects of pain assessment, pharmacological, and non-pharmacological interventions.
- A chart audit was conducted using the existing pain management data retrieval form from the practicum site.
- A PowerPoint presentation education covered the Joint Commission (2017) standards. Updated policies, pain scales, and visual reminders were also implemented to ensure nurses comply with the guidelines and policies.

**RESULTS**

The results of the quality improvement project showed that nurses lacked adequate pain management knowledge, 45.45% of participants responded incorrectly to knowledge questions about pain before the intervention.

**Post-Intervention Final Results**

KASRP: Increase of 23.91% from pre-intervention (65.65%) to post-intervention (89.56%) regarding patient pain management guidelines and assessment, \( t(22) = -5.715, p < 0.001 \).

- Chart Audit Review N=30:
  - Increase of 2% for pain assessment
  - Increase of 36.67% for pain reassessment
  - Increase of 33.34% for pain documentation

This means that the quality improvement project interventions had a significant impact on raising pain knowledge scores and assessment.

**KASRP RESULTS**

![KASRP Results Chart]

**CONCLUSION**

Appropriate pain management is a vital component to quality patient care. Emergency department nurses play an essential role in implementing pain management. The lack of knowledge and attitudes regarding pain management and ineffective pain assessment, reassessment, and documentation are barriers to effective pain management. Thus, having guidelines, along with providing education, having resources such as pain scales, visual reminders, and binders with pain management policy and pain assessment guidelines proved to be useful as evidenced by post-test score improvement. This quality improvement project will provide a basis for future studies in improving nurses’ pain management knowledge.

**References**

