

Viral Hepatitis B&C in Elderly Hemodialysis Unit: Nurses' Related Preventive Practices

Abstract Background: Hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C virus infections are important causes of morbidity and mortality of hemodialysis patients. Hepatitis B and C virus in our hemodialysis patients is still high. These data emphasize the need for stricter adherence to infection control, barrier precaution and preventive behaviors with all patients. **Aim:** The aim of this study was to assess nurses' practices regarding preventive measures for viral hepatitis B & C in hemodialysis dialysis unit. **Design:** A descriptive exploratory design was utilized in the current study. **Setting:** The study was carried out in two hemodialysis units at Beni-Suef University Hospital and Elwasta General Hospital in Beni-Suef Governorate. **Subjects:** A convenient sample of 76 hemodialysis nurses. **Results:** The mean of age is 23.45 ± 2.71 years, 71.1% of them are female, 52.6% of the dialysis nurses have technical institute, and 48.7% of the dialysis nurses have 2-5 years of experience in nursing field. About 89.5% & 55.3% of the dialysis nurses were competent regarding preventive practices related to viral hepatitis in dialysis unit and practices toward the environment, respectively, 71.1% & 52.6% of them were incompetent regarding general preventive practices related to dialysis unit and practices toward machine & equipment, respectively. Moreover, 63.2% of them were incompetent regarding toward safe waste management. Furthermore, 52.6% of the dialysis nurses were incompetent regarding practices towards viral hepatitis B & C for the elderly patients in the dialysis units. **Conclusion:** There is highly statistically significant relation between dialysis nurses' practice and their education level, attended training program for new dialysis nurses, training program for improving nursing skills, and participate in scientific conferences for dialysis and kidney disease during the last 5 years. Moreover, there is statistically significant relation with their age, years of experience in nursing field, years of experience in dialysis unit and the opportunity to view the courses and medical journals. **Recommendations:** Increase availability of supplies and equipment, especially which concerned With infection control as personal protective equipment, alcohol rub in a dispenser inside the dialysis rooms and close from the point of care".

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