SUMMARY

This chapter provides an overview of the study and its significant findings and presents recommendations based on the current study findings.

Assessing and improving the quality of nursing care is a major focus of neonatal health care. High-quality nursing outcomes are used as an indicator of the ability to provide excellence in neonatal care. RDS caused by surfactant deficiency, which causes increased surface tension in the air-liquid interface of the terminal respiratory units leading to atelectasis *(Pillitteri, 2014).* RDS and its complications are the most common causes of neonatal mortality and morbidity, consequences of respiratory difficulties in the neonatal period and consider the commonest cause of illness in the first year of life *(Hockenberry & Wilson, 2013).* The aim of the current study was to assess nurses' knowledge and practice which provided to preterm neonates with RDS.

The study's research questions were;
1. What is the level of nurses' knowledge regarding care of preterm neonate with RDS?
2. What is the level of nurses' practice regarding care of preterm neonate with RDS?

This descriptive study was carried out for the neonatal nurses at El Nasr Hospital, Port Fouad General Hospital, and El-Tadamon Hospital at Port Said City. A convenient sample of 48 neonatal nurses and 71 preterm neonates suffering from RDS were included in the study.

Data collection started from the first of October 2013 to the last of January 2014. Data were collected through using structured interview sheets and observational checklists. Each nurse were individually interviewed to assess their knowledge about RDS,   while their nursing care was assessed by using observational checklists during their actual practice and care of preterm with RDS. Data about the preterm neonates with RDS was obtained from the preterm's medical records.

The main findings of the present study were:

- The majority of the studied nurses (85.4%) were in age group of 20-30 years old.
- More than half of the studied nurses (56.2%) were graduated from secondary school of nursing.
- More than half of the preterm neonates (59.2%) were male.
- Less than two-thirds of the preterm neonates' gestational age (64.8%) was 34 : <37 weeks.
- More than one-third of the studied nurses (39.6%) had complete answers about pressure of suction machine.
- More than half of the studied nurses didn't know the drop factors of soluset (52.1%), more than three-quarters of them had incomplete answers about the rights of medication administration (77.1%).
- The majority of the studied nurses had incomplete answers about nursing care for neonate with ETT and signs of ETT displacement (87.5%, 85.4% respectively).
- More than half of the studied nurses didn't know the definition of quality of health care (54.8%).

- The total nurses' knowledge mean scores ±SD were 74.89± 9.53 scores; while the total nurses' practice mean scores ±SD were 196.13±18.33 scores.

- Less than two-thirds of the studied nurses (60.4%) had poor level in their total scores of knowledge; while 30.6% had average level.

- More than half of the studied nurses (56.3%) had poor level in their total scores of practice; while 35.4% of them had average level.

- There were statistical significance relation between total studied nurses' knowledge mean scores and their educational level with $p < 0.01$.

- There were highly statistical significance relations between nurses' practice means scores in relation to educational level with $p < 0.001$.

- There were highly statistical significance correlation between total knowledge means scores and total practice with $p < 0.001$.

The study **concluded** that:

Less than two-thirds of the studied nurses had poor level of knowledge and more than half of them had poor level of practice. In addition; there were a highly statistical significant relation between the studied nurses' total knowledge mean scores and their practice mean scores in relation to their educational level with $p \leq 0.001$. There was a highly positive statistical significant correlation between the studied nurses' total knowledge mean scores and their total practice mean scores with $p \leq 0.001$.

The study **recommendations** were the following:

- Periodic educational program for nurses working at NICUs is mandatory, for the purpose of raising and updating the knowledge of nurses.

- Raising the nurses' awareness about quality of nursing care and its applications in care for preterm with RDS through applying multidisciplinary approach should focus on the quality of nursing care provided to children anywhere especially high risk neonates.

- Provide Arabic procedure manual handbooks containing all necessary information (knowledge) about nursing procedures related to quality of nursing care for preterm with RDS.