

OPAL THOMAS

Knowledge and Attitude of Medical Nurses toward
Oral Health and Oral Health Care of Pregnant Women

DEN 1200 D200

March 13, 2019

Introduction

1. What is the author's central purpose? Is it clearly stated?

The author's central purpose was to conduct a study to ascertain the knowledge and attitude of medical nurses regarding oral health and health care of pregnant women. This purpose was clearly stated at the very beginning of the article, which allowed the reader to systemically and methodically follow the evidence presented, the line of reasonings presented, and the conclusion that was drawn

2. Write a 150- 200 word summary of the article that accurately conveys the content of the article.

During the time that a woman is pregnant, most if not all of her health care [provided mainly by nurses], are specially focused on the reproductive system, and the general health of mother and child, while little if not no attention or care is given to oral health. Despite the fact that, it has been determined that during pregnancy women are more susceptible to oral health disease due to an increased level of the hormones estrogen and progesterone. In the presence of dental plaque the hormones, helps to exasperate, the condition, resulting in hyperplasia of gingival tissues, increasing the risk of gingivitis, which if left unchecked will progressed into periodontal diseases, and possible tooth loss, preterm birth and low birth weight for infants

Gingivitis is reversible and periodontal diseases preventable. The article highlights the fact that if nurses, were properly trained to detect oral pathologies, and are educated and knowl-

edgible in understanding that there is correlation between oral diseases and the systemic consequences during pregnancy; they can then, intervene to help reverse and halt the disease progressions, and thus, prevent its adverse consequence, by recommending their patient to see the dentist.

To quantify and understand the nurse's effectiveness, in this regard the study was conducted access the knowledge and attitude, of 133 nurses involved in antenatal care in the district of Tumpat, Kelantan [Malaysia]. Based on the data collected a conclusion was drawn that despite the fact that overall they had a go attitude towards oral health relating to pregnant women, they had limited knowledge, and misconception related to the subject. Age and years of service bears no effect on the score

3. Does the work meet the standards to be considered an appropriate/academic/scholarly source? Justify your choice.

The work meets the standards to be considered as an appropriate/academic/scholarly source, because it was Expert Peer Reviewed and Peer Reviewed. The article was published in the Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences (MALAYSIAN J MED SCI). 'The Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences (MJMS) is a peer-reviewed, open-access, fully online journal that is published at least six times a year. The journal's scope encompasses all aspects of medical sciences including biomedical, allied health, clinical and social sciences' [MJMS]. Additionally, articles are published in other reputable data bases, such as NCBI [articles are found in the pages of PubMed journals], and Google Scholar, to name a few. The journal is member of the World Association of Medical Editors, Council of Science Editors, and Scientist Without Borders.

4. Are the qualifications of the author(s) appropriate for an academic article? Briefly describe the authors' qualifications

The three authors are: Sharif, Suzana; Saddki, Norkhafizah; Yusoff, Azizah. Saddki, Norkhafizah is currently based in University Sains Malaysia, Health Campus, Kelantan, Malaysia which is a School of Dental Sciences. Her current position is an Associate Professor. Yusoff, Azizah has written articles in other publications. His major discipline is in economics, and has been cited/referenced in 51 publications. Sharif, Suzana has disciples in Medicine, specifically: Dentistry, Dental Surgery, Restorative Dentistry and Endodontics. Dental Hygiene and Epidemiology. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Periodontics and Pedodontics (Pediatric Dentistry). Orthodontics Prosthodontics and Implantology. She has also been cited in 5 publications.

5. When was the work published?

The article was accepted editors on December 11, 2015, however it was published on February 2016.

Methods

1. Is the experimental design clearly described? Describe the design in your own words.

In my opinion the design of the experiment was clearly detailed, because the article allowed the reader to discern why this particular method was chosen and thus, it enable me to logically followed and accepted the results. The experimental design was non-experimental because they studied the conditions as they occurred. Two of the three authors designed 33 items or questionnaires that was well suited for the current study.

There were 23 items/questions that were used to access the nurse's *knowledge* about maternal periodontitis, signs and symptoms of the disease, risk factors, adverse pregnancy outcomes and common misconceptions. Additionally, 7 items were included to access the nurse's *attitude* on the subject, and also trainings that they have received to keep them abreast with oral health issues. To interpret and quantify the results, numerical values were attached to each of the items. For knowledge there were 3 possible responses: "yes", "no" and "do not know". The Likert scale was used to measure the 7 attitude items. Each attitude item were ranked on 5 point, which is as follows: 1 for 'strongly disagree', 2 for 'disagree', 3 for 'neither agree nor disagree', 4 for 'agree' and 5 for 'strongly agree'.

To collect the demographic information on the participant a 'structured socio-demographic form was used. It collected data on age, sex, ethnic group, length of service as a nurse, and the length of service in antenatal care. Participant were also given an informed consent form, that explained the purpose of the study. And the study was approved by an ethics committee.

After recording the number of participants, individuals a packed envelope, which after being completed was collected after two weeks. All of the data was entered, cleaned and analyzed to obtain the statistics. Also an independent t-test was used to compare the knowledge and attitude score of the nurse's characteristics. All of the results were documented in table charts for reader's comparisons.

2. Have the possible influences on the findings been identified and controls instituted?

Describe and evaluate the use of controls and possible influences.

One possible influence on the findings has been identified as the nurse's attitudes towards oral health care of pregnant women. Since the nurses are usually in the forefront of antenatal care it was important to determine whether oral care was just as important with systemic care during pregnancy. It was determined that while [99.3%] agreed that oral health screenings was just an important component in antenatal care; [66.9%] do not consider it as part of their responsibility to clinically 'look' inside their patient's mouth to detect oral pathologies.

No controls were implemented because it was important to collect raw and true data, so that any discrepancies, or incorrect findings in treatment protocols, can and will be accurately and specifically corrected.

3. Has the sample been appropriately selected (if applicable)? Describe the sample used in the study, and evaluate its appropriateness.

The group that was selected had similar and appropriate characteristics. All were medical nurses who were also considered as antenatal healthcare providers, therefore the sample were an appropriate selections. Nurses who are predominantly female, plays a crucial role as providers of antenatal health care services. Being from the same gender, and district of the patients, gives them the advantages of being relatable and trustworthy even more so than the doctors. A cross section of 133 nurses, coming from 30 different facilities involved in medical and the administering antenatal care in the Ministry of Health[MOH]; from the district of Tumpat, Kelantan [Malaysia], were all invited to participate in the study.

4. Is the experimental therapy compared appropriately to the control therapy? Describe and evaluate the use of the control group.

The sample was of a cross sectional design. There was no physical experimental therapy nor tangible control therapy; a comparisons made between the nurses to see whether there were any correlation between their '*knowledge*' and '*attitudes*' that would have influenced their treatment approach, regarding oral care, while simultaneously addressing the antenatal needs of their pregnant patients.

5. Is the investigation of sufficient duration? Evaluate, and explain your reasoning.

The investigation was of sufficient duration. It was cross sectional study of a sample of nurses who were surveyed once, and in a relative short time. The information was collected after

a 2 weeks span and the study was conducted between the months of April and June of 2014. Despite such a relative short duration, it was appropriate, to access then and there, what the nurse's true feelings and attitude were on the subject.

Results and Discussion

- 6. Have the research questions or hypothesis been answered? Restate the research questions and/or hypotheses in your own words, and describe if or how they are answered.**

The research question was: To what extent does the knowledge and attitude of medical nurses that are involved in antenatal care, influenced their care/treatment methods in oral health and oral health care of pregnant women. Also, does age and length of service plays a factor.

The research concluded that while the medical nurses had a good attitude toward oral health during prenatal care; they had and exhibited limited knowledge and had some misunderstandings about the subject matter.

- 7. Review the results in light of the stated objectives. Does the study reveal what the researcher intended?**

They came to this conclusion by quantifying the scores of the survey, by giving each response a numerical value. The results were tallied and was presented in 4 table format.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the article and findings? Explain why?

I do agree with the article and finding. as I am personally familiar with some of the many misconceptions responses from the survey. Growing up I have observed that women with 'brood' of children were missing numerous teeth. Therefore, like many of the nurses, I have always thought that, the baby drew the calcium from the mother's teeth [in fact it is the bones]. Also many healthcare professional, seem unaware of the mouth-body connections. They view the oral region as a separate entity [the responsibility of which is *solely* for the dentist], which has resulted in a lot of missed early detections and diagnosis.

9. What would you change in the article? Why? Think outside of the box. What would you add or delete.

Personally, the only thing that I would have changed was to include the doctors, more specially, the Gynecologist. It is possibly they too have misconceptions regarding oral healthcare during pregnancy. Otherwise the nurses might not be so misinformed and limited in knowledge about the subject. The usual chain of command is that the nurses follows the doctor's instructions.

REFERENCES:

Knowledge and Attitude of Medical Nurses toward Oral Health and Oral Health
Care of Pregnant Women.

Suzana Sharif, Norkhafizah Saddki, Azizah Yusoff

School of Dental Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Health Campus, 16150

Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, Malaysia Submitted: 29 May 2015 Accepted: 11 Dec

2015

http://journal.usm.my/journal/01MJMS23052016_ED2.pdf