



Critical Care Nurses' Pain Assessment and Management: A Survey in Taipei

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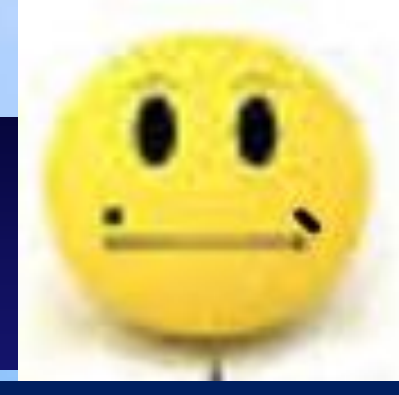
Purpose



Study aims:

1. Investigate critical care nurses' pain assessment /management practices for critically ill patients.
2. Understand enablers and barriers related to critical care nurses' pain assessment/management practices.
3. Explore associated factors of critical care nurses' frequent utilization of pain assessment tools among non-communicative critically ill patients.

Methods



Study design: A cross-sectional, descriptive, correlational study.

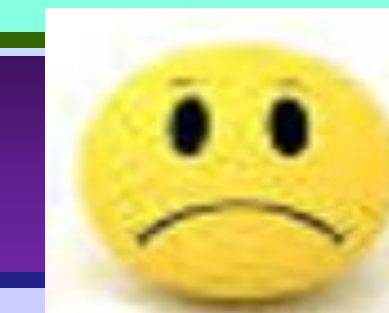
Setting: 10 intensive care units in Taipei area.

Sample: 381 critical care nurses.

Measure: A 29-item structured questionnaire.

Data analysis: Study aims 1 and 2: Descriptive statistics; Study aim 3: Logistic regression.

Results



The majority of critical care nurses ($n = 328$, 86.1%) reported that they would use pain assessment tools for non-communicative critically ill patients, and considered nurses as the persons who could provide the most accurate pain assessment ($n = 252$, 66.1%).

Enablers	Barriers
Standardized pain assessment tools ($n = 262$, 68.7%)	Non-communicable patients ($n = 203$, 53.2%)
Pain management guidelines ($n = 251$, 65.8%)	Patients with unstable conditions ($n = 196$, 51.4%)
Prescriptions of sufficient analgesic ($n = 252$, 66.1%)	Working load ($n = 195$, 51.1 %)

Associated factors of frequent utilization of pain assessment tools for non-communicative patients: Employing at (a) the Joint Commission International (JCI) accredited hospitals (OR=5.51, 95% CI 2.93-10.34, $p < .001$), (b) the units with patients receiving surgical treatments (OR=2.49, 95% CI 1.52-4.06, $p < .001$), or (c) the institutions implementing pain assessment tools for non-communicative patients (OR=3.35, 95% CI 1.55-7.24, $p < .01$)

Conclusion

1. Pain is a major stressor for critically ill patients.
2. Implementing standardized pain assessment tools and pain management guidelines at healthcare institutions.
3. Delivering education or training related to pain assessment/management for critically ill patients at healthcare institutions or medical education institutions.



Pain Assessment Tool
(Face Rating Scale, FRS)



Pain Assessment
principles

Pain Assessment contents



Pain Assessment
step

