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.

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

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.

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.