Assessment of Nurses' Knowledge Regarding Breast Cancer at Primary Health Care Centers in Al-Sader District

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Abstract

Background: Breast cancer is the most common, prevalent and diagnosed that affects women and the leading cause of death and disability worldwide and is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among women.

Objective: To assess the levels of knowledge among nurses regarding breast cancer at primary health care centers in Al-Sader district and to find out the relationship between socio- demographic characteristic and levels of knowledge.

Patients and Methods: A cross-sectional study in which assessment approach is applied to achieve objectives of study, The period of the study was from 2nd July 2017 to 28th May 2018. The sample was non-probability (purposive sample) of 50 nurses who working at primary health care centers in Al-Sader district and selected according to criteria of sample and for the purpose of the study. A questionnaire used was consist of (37) items which was distributed across (2) main parts which are the socio-demographic characteristics which included (7) items, to assess levels of knowledge regarding the breast cancer these comprised (30) items. Data analysis by using program of SPSS version 20. Descriptive data through determination of: frequencies, percentages and mean of score to measure the level of knowledge to nurses. Inferential statistical data analysis by application Chi –square test used this for determine the association between the nurse's socio-demographic characteristics and knowledge of nurses about breast cancer.

Results: Results of the study that more than half of nurses with good levels of knowledge regarding breast cancer and there are significant association between sources of information and knowledge of nurses regarding breast cancer.

Conclusion: That establish specially heath educational programs that provide information about breast cancer to the community.

Keywords: Assessment, Nurses, Knowledge, Breast Cancer , Primary Health Care Centers

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Introduction

Cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide and it is an important public health problem both in underdeveloped and developing countries. Globally, breast cancer

is the most common cancer among women [1].

Breast cancer is the most common among women, prevalent and diagnosed that affects women and the leading cause of death and disability worldwide and is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among women[2].The important reason of disease was diagnosed in progress stages, and multiple barriers to diagnosis and treatment for most women who depend on the public health care, a tumor with good prognosis in most cases and when diagnosed and treated in appropriate time, therefore breast cancer had correlating with high rate of mortality [3].

Risk of breast cancer that threat women who lived in Iraq for the last twenty years ago. Every year, 1000-1200 new cases are recorded. Breast cancer occupies 14% of the whole in different type of cancers and a rate of 1-6 of women are affected from every 100000 [4].First cause of breast cancer is unknown, another causes Including; genetic, hormone, environmental toxins, biological and physiological factors, 1%-2% yearly in developing countries the risk of developing breast cancer has increased [5].

Family history characteristics that suggest hereditary predisposition to breast cancer include, early age at diagnosis, multiple synchronic or met chronic primary tumors, male breast cancer and correlation with another tumors such as ovarian and prostate cancers [6]. The important resource of dissemination of breast cancer knowledge to women are the health-care professionals, educational institutions and media. Among the healthcare professionals, female nurses comprise the group most suited for this purpose [7].

Nurses have a major role in the multidisciplinary team involved in the care of patients with breast cancer, as well as those at increased risk for the disease. Therefore, it is essential to invest in the Knowledge, education and training of nurses, Knowledge and identification of risk factors for breast cancer are key challenges for health promotion and cancer prevention within nursing practice [8].

The nurses play an important role in educating women through special educational programs in the clinical setting, through community outreach strategies of our social and cultural setting. In addition, they constitute an important source of information [9].

Patients and Methods

A cross-sectional study in which assessment approach is applied to achieve objectives of study, The period of the study was from 2nd July 2017 to 28th September 2017. The sample was non-probability (purposive sample) of 50 nurses from (20) primary health care centers in Al-Sader sector and selected according to criteria of sample and for the purpose of the study.

A questionnaire is consist of [37] items which are distributed across 2 main parts which are the socio-demographic characteristics which included [7] items, and to assess levels of knowledge regarding breast cancer this comprised [30] items.

Statistical analysis

Participant's responses were analyses by using program of (SPSS) version 20. Descriptive data through determination of: frequencies, percentages and mean of score to measure the level of knowledge to nurses. Inferential statistical data analysis by application Chi –square test used this for determine the association between the nurse's socio-demographic characteristics and knowledge of nurses about breast cancer (Based on Chi-squire : Sig. P≤0.05 Highly Sig. At P<0.01. And Non Sig.AtP>0.05)(10).

Results

Table (1): Socio-demographic characteristics of nurses.

Socio-demographic characteristics		No.	%
Age	20-30	9	18%
	31 – 40	13	26%
	41-50	21	42%
	Above 51	7	14%
	Total	50	100%
Marital status	Single	22	44%
	Married	16	32%
	Widowed	3	6%
	Divorce	9	18%
	Total	50	100%
Education level	Nursing school	8	16%
	Preparatory nursing school	22	44%
	Institute and more	20	40%
	Total	50	100%
Economic status	Enough	12	24%
	enough some times	18	36%
	not enough	20	40%
	Total	50	100%
Source of information	Doctor	17	34%
	Nurses	20	40%
	Media	10	20%
	Another source	3	6%
	Total	50	100%
Time of health services	from 1 years to 5	5	10%
	6 – 10	7	14%
	11-15	7	14%
	more than 16	31	62%
	Total	50	100%
Participated in training courses about breast cancer	Yes	20	40%
	No	30	60%
	Total	50	100%

No. = Number, % = Percentage

Results out of this table reveal the socio-demographic characteristic of (50) participated nurses; (42%) from them were 41-50 years old, (44%) were single, (44%) were preparatory nursing school level of education, (60%) of them say not enough for economic status, (40%) were the major source of information about breast cancer from nurse, (62%) of them the time of health services more than 16 years and (60%) of nurses don't participated in training courses about breast cancer.

Table (2): The levels of nurses' knowledge regarding Breast Cancer.

Knowledge			
Level	M.S	No.	%
Poor	1-1.66	12	24%
Intermediate	1.67-2.33	11	22%
Good	2.34-3	27	54%
Total	1-3	50	100%

No. = Number, % = Percentage, M.S = mean of the score

This table reveals more than half of participated nurses have good knowledge level regarding breast cancer.

Table (3): Association between Socio- demographic characteristics and nurses' knowledge**.**

Demographic Characteristics	No.	Df	Knowledge	
			P-value	*C.S*
Age		2	0.45	Non
Marital status		3	0.19	Non
Education level		6	0.18	Non
Economic status	50	2	0.26	Non
Source of information		2	0.02	S
Time of health services		2	0.32	Non
Participated in training courses about breast cancer		2	0.04	S

Df= degree of freedom, No. = Number, P: probability value, S: Significant at P< 0.05, NS: Non-significant at P > 0.05, C.S: Comparative Significant

Results out of this table that significant association between sources of information and participated in training courses with knowledge of nurses about breast cancer .

Discussion

Socio-demographic characteristic of nurses: According to age, most of study participants (42%) from them were 41-50 years old, (44%) were single, A study presented supportive evidence to this result by Semarya B. et al (11) they studied age range of participants was from 21 to 58 years and as to the marital status 169 (62.6%) were single and 87 (32.2%) married. (44%) were preparatory nursing school level of education, because the policy of Ministry of

Health don't allow the academic nurse to work in primary health care. (60%) of them say not enough for economic status, (40%) were the major source of information about breast cancer from nurse, (62%) of them the time of health services more than 16 years and (60%) of nurses don't participated in training courses about breast cancer Table (1).

Discussion of the levels of nurses' knowledge regarding breast cancer: The results of this table revealed that more than half participated nurses have good knowledge level regarding breast cancer. Because the ministry of health provided support to continuing nursing education in all health institutions to present the information about breast cancer and another diseases. A study presented not supportive evidence to this result by Alkhasawneh IM (12) they studied Nurses have low mean levels of knowledge about early detection and facts related to breast cancer in Jordan (X= 51%, SD = 19), continuing nursing education program are very important to improve knowledge level of nurses regarding breast cancer Table (2).

Discussion of the Association between socio-demographic characteristic and nurses 'knowledge: The findings of the present study shows that statistical significant association between items which are related to the nurses' knowledge and sources of information regarding breast cancer. The sources of information regarding breast cancer play an important role to change and increase the awareness and knowledge about

breast cancer and to recognize the risk factors who affected. While shows that no statistical significant association between items which are related to (age, marital status, education level, economic status and time of health services) and nurses' knowledge Table(3).

Also shows statistical significant association between of the items which is related to the nurses' knowledge and participated in training courses about breast cancer. The training courses increase the knowledge and practice to educated about breast cancer, and who learn the another female in work place and community to deal with this disease.

Conclusions

The present study concluded that nearly half age of nurses (42%) from (41-50) years old, (44%) from them were preparatory nursing school level of education, major source of information regarding breast cancer from nurse (40%), there are good knowledge of nurses regarding breast cancer, there's significant association between knowledge and sources of information and significant association between participated in training courses breast cancer and knowledge of nurses regarding breast cancer.

Recommendations

According to the results of study the recommendations that:

1-Establish specially heath educational programs that provide information regarding breast cancer to the community.

2-Encourage the study about risk factors related breast cancer in Iraq.

3-Nurses need to promote their knowledge regarding breast cancer by continuing nurses education programs.

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