

**AJMHR**

Asian Journal of Medical and Health Research

Journal home page: www.ajmhr.com

A study on the Nurses' knowledge and Attitude about Tuberculosis in Duhok hospitals

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ABSTRACT

Tuberculosis is a disease that involves all the systems of the body, and doctors and nurses working in all disciplines of medicine are involved in its management. This study aimed to assess information and knowledge of nurses about tuberculosis disease and to identify nurses' roles of Health Education in Primary Health Care Centers and Hospitals Regarding Prevention from Tuberculosis. A descriptive study used to achieve the objectives of the study, was carried out to assess Nurse's knowledge and their Roles of Health Education in Primary Health Care Centers and hospitals Regarding Prevention from tuberculosis in Duhok City between the period of November 1st, 2019 to March 1st, 2019, the study was conducted at Azadi Teaching Hospital, Baroshki Emergency Hospital, and Hevi Hospital. Study consist of 100 nurses, in order to achieve to the objectives of this study, A questionnaire was designed and constructed, which consisted of Three parts, 1st part concerned to assess the Socio-demographic characteristics of students, which is composed of (5) items, 2nd part concerning information and knowledge of nurses about tuberculosis composed of (10) items, 3rd part composed of (6) items regarding nurses Roles of Health Regarding Prevention from tuberculosis in Duhok City. The data collected by a questionnaire through face to face interview. The result of the study was, the majority of nurses have knowledge about Tuberculosis. The conclusion of the study show there is a general lack of knowledge regarding various aspects of tuberculosis among nurses. The recommendation of the study is to Active interventions are required to improve awareness for a better implementation of the revised national tuberculosis control programme in Duhok.

Keywords: Duhok, knowledge, Nurses, Tuberculosis

Received 27 March 2019, Accepted 04 April 2019

Please cite this article as: Alaa T *et al.*, A study on the Nurses' knowledge and Attitude about Tuberculosis in Duhok hospitals. Asian Journal of Medical and Health Research 2019.

INTRODUCTION

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the main causes of mortality worldwide that leads to important problems of Global Public Health. In 2016, 6.5 million new cases were reported worldwide, and TB mortality is estimated at 3% per year [1]. There is a marked difference in the epidemiology of TB between high income countries and low-and-middle-income countries (LMIC). In the LMIC, TB causes >90% of cases, mainly affecting vulnerable populations, such as children and the elderly (≥ 65 years) [1].

Tuberculosis is a leading infectious killer disease worldwide [2]. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment on the part of the health care providers is essential for TB control [2]. Their knowledge, attitude and practice have an impact on the tuberculosis patients regarding compliance to treatment and follow up [2].

Nurses are primary responsible for Direct Observation Therapy Strategy and administration of anti-tuberculosis (TB) medications [3]. Lack of knowledge might result with medication error sand ineffective TB control [3].

Various strategies have been implemented in TB control using varying case detection methods. In settings such as Africa, clinic-based strategies were found to be more effective regarding the control of TB, since active outreach programs and home based case finding had concerns of stigma [4].

Health care workers are one of the key populations to be addressed in any program for successful TB control. This is due to many reasons. In studies conducted in African countries, the limited capacity of health care workers in diagnosis and management of TB add on to the dual burden of HIV infection and TB and thus worsen the situation [2].

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Descriptive design used to achieve the objectives of the study was carried out at on Nurses of Duhok Hospitals from November 1st, 2019 to March 1st, 2019. The study consist of 100 nurses, in order to achieve to the objectives of this study, A questionnaire was designed and constructed, which consisted of Three parts, 1st part concerned to assess the Socio-demographic characteristics of students, which is composed of (5) items, 2nd part concerning information and knowledge of nurses about tuberculosis composed of (10) items, 3rd part composed of (6) items regarding nurses Roles of Health Regarding Prevention from tuberculosis in Duhok City. The data collected by a questionnaire through face to face interview.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Tuberculosis [TB] is a contagious disease that is caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and it

transmits from person to person through coughing and breathing in airborne droplets that contain bacteria [5].

The present study revealed that the majority of nurses have knowledge about Tuberculosis and showed there is a general lack of knowledge regarding various aspects of tuberculosis among nurses.

The data from a South Africa's study done by Cabral V.K., et al. 2017 distance learning courses imparted to nurses involved in care of tuberculosis patients resulted in a significant improvement in the knowledge regarding the same [6].

Another study reported that there was a wide variation in the knowledge regarding prevention and transmission of tuberculosis among the pediatric age group. But the improvement in knowledge alone was not sufficient to overcome all the barriers identified by the health care workers [7].

A total of 100 students responded to the questionnaire and were included in the study.

Table (4-1): Distribution of the sample according to their socio-demographical data [n=100]:

Demographic Characteristics		Frequency	Percentage %
Gender	Male	35	35%
	Female	65	65%
Age	20-29	57	57%
	30-39	18	18%
	40-49	17	17%
	50-59	8	8%
Site of sitting	Primary care center	4	4%
	Hospital	96	96%
Employment of nurses by years	1-10	68	68%
	11-20	19	19%
	21-30	7	7%
	Over 30 years	6	6%
Level of education of nurses	School nurses	31	31%
	Institute nurses	47	47%
	College nurses	22	22%

Table [4-1] shows that the highest number of age is between **20-29 [57%]** years, most of them are female, majority of them are institute **[47%]**, school nurses **[31%]** and some of them are College nurses **[22]**. Most of them from the hospital **[96%]** and the highest number of sample regarding years of employment is between **1-10 [68%]** years.

Table (4-2): knowledge of Nurses regarding Tuberculosis

Do you know the definition of TB?	No. %
Yes	62%
No	38%
Do you know the causes of TB?	
Yes	56%
No	44%
Do you know the symptoms of TB?	
Yes	66%
No	34%
Do you know the mode of transmission?	
Yes	69%
No	31%
Do you know how TB is diagnosed?	
Yes	%49
No	%51
Does TB is curable or not?	
Yes	%70
No	30%
Do you know what is the duration of treatment of newly diagnosed case of TB?	
Yes	43%
No	57%
Do you think there will complications in other organs and parts of the body if we didn't treatment TB?	
Yes	%40
No	%60
BCG is the only vaccine currently available?	
Yes	43%
No	57%
Have you ever had close contact with persons known or suspected to have active TB disease?	
Yes	%27
No	%73

Table [4-2] indicates that the majority of sample [**62%**] has knowledge about Tuberculosis, also the majority of them have knowledge about transmission of bacteria [**69%**] and the highest number of sample regarding TB is curable or not is [**70%**] while most of them don't have knowledge about the duration [**57%**], complications [**60%**], and available vaccine [**57%**].

Table (4-3): Role of nurses regarding prevention from Tuberculosis:

Do you participate with general health directorate in Duhok regarding prevention from TB?	No. %
Yes	45%
No	55%
Do you do health education for clients who attending to P.H.C, Centers about prevention TB?	
Yes	54%
No	46%
Do you do health education for clients who attending your center about Ventilation of houses?	

Yes	51%
No	49%

Table [4-3] demonstrates that almost half of nurses or samples have role in health education for prevention of Tuberculosis and they know their responsibility about that.

Table (4-4): knowledge of study sample regarding program of health education about Tuberculosis:

Do you participate in any program for health education belonged to general directorate for health?	No. %
Yes	31%
No	69%
Does general directorate of health in Duhok put any program for nurses about health education regarding TB?	
Yes	30%
No	70%
Are there sufficient requirements like hall and data show or some things like that in your center for health education?	
Yes	22%
No	78%

Table [4-4] highlights that the majority of nurses have not participated in training program for general directorate of health, there is not plan for that, and they haven't enough requirements for doing health education in the center.

CONCLUSION

1. There is a general lack of knowledge regarding various aspects of tuberculosis among nurses.
2. There still exist gaps regarding the transmission and control of TB if effective control of TB needs to be achieved. Nursing professionals still are in need of continuing educational programs regarding treatment and control of TB

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