EVALUATION OF NURSING CARE OF VITAL SIGNS, SURGICAL WOUND SITE AND VAGINAL DISCHARGE FOR WOMEN UNDERGONE HYSTÈRECTOMY AT MATERNITY WARDS IN BAGHDAD CITY’S TEACHING HOSPITAL

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ABSTRACT

A descriptive study design using the evaluation approach is conducted to evaluate postoperative nursing care to women undergoing hysterectomy. The study is carried out from 11 November 2020 to 27 June 2021. A non-probability sample (convenient) consisting of (40) nurses from (8) teaching hospitals in the city of Baghdad within the maternity wards. A pilot study was conducted for the period from 6 December to 17 January 2020 in order to determine the validity and reliability of the study tools. The study found that wound care is an element that ranks first in nursing care, and in second vital signs, while vaginal discharge ranked third. And the study confirmed that years of practice in maternity wards, education, and training courses have a strong impact on the postoperative nursing care of women who have undergone hysterectomy. The study recommended the necessity of implementing training programs for nursing care after hysterectomy. And increase the number of nurses in this area to treat weakness in the wards. In addition, hospital management needs to play a strong role in monitoring patient care.

KEYWORDS: Evaluation, Nursing Care, Surgical Wound Site, Vital Signs, Vaginal Discharge, Hysterectomy

I. INTRODUCTION

A hysterectomy is a procedure in which the uterus is surgically removed. The majority of hysterectomies for benign indications are performed. And a hysterectomy may be suggested for several purposes in general. One study recorded that the most common symptom was myoma of the uterus, accompanied by endometrial, postmenopausal bleeding, pelvic mass, pelvic pain, and uterine prolapse, with or without irregular uterine bleeding. And ethnicity may also play a role in hysterectomy indications (1). Nurse's job is difficult because they are active in every aspect of patient care, from offering comfort and hygiene to administering intravenous infusions, recording medical records, and performing minor diagnostic and therapeutic techniques and methods (2).

Nursing plays a vital role in delivering the patient with the best possible surgical outcomes and ensuring that complications are less likely. The differential way for a proper nursing care practice is to consider the entire dynamics surrounding the operating cycles, provided that each cycle has its peculiarities that enable the provision of unique and individualized care behavior is detected. It is a must to be responsive to the pain of others in the nursing work process and to know how to listen to their concerns and needs, as it brings the professional closer to the patient (3).

The nursing care plan should address all facets of patient needs, such as physical, mental, social, moral, and cultural requirements, contributing to the enhancement of the ability to establish a systematic structure and provision of patients with standard quality care, based on the needs of patients. The value of implementing and using a structured plan such as the nursing method to provide nursing care that can be estimated by experienced
nurses in care time could connect patient concerns and treatments to be collected so that problems can be solved more effectively (4).

Wound treatment after surgery can provide an optimal atmosphere for wound healing. This is largely accomplished by promoting wound dressings. Surgical site infections can be avoided in the vast majority of cases. To reduce the risk of infection after surgery, steps can be taken in stages. Many hospital infections are caused by microbes that are passed from one patient to the next by healthcare workers who have not cleaned their hands between patients or who do not use control laws such as hand disinfection, gloves, and other precautionary care (5). Following the surgery, the nurse must monitor vital signs and ensure that the woman's general health and blood circulation are stable. Any unfavorable changes in the patient's vital signs should be reported to the doctor (6). Vital signs have been associated with a variety of physical measurements such as pulse, respiration, temperature, and blood pressure. The most typical method for obtaining vital signs after surgery is hourly for the first four hours and then every four hours after that. The first 24 hours are crucial; a patient receives an average of ten sets of monitoring (7).

During surgery, the vagina may be damaged, and you may become infected as a result of extended urine in the urethra and vagina. As a result, postoperative nursing is critical for the patient's rehabilitation and the elimination of problems. The quantity, color, odor, and features of vaginal bleeding and exudation are all closely monitored by the nurse. Maintaining the hygiene and sterilization of the perineum is also important to avoid vaginal infection. The nurse also advises the patient to get out of bed so that blood and vaginal secretions can drain more easily (8).

Objectives:
To evaluate the nursing care for surgical wound, vital signs and vaginal discharge for women undergone hysterectomy at Maternity Wards in Baghdad City's Teaching Hospital.

II. METHODOLOGY
A quantitative descriptive hospital-based study design, the study initiated from 11 November 2020 to 27 June 2021. This study was conducted on a non-probability (convenient) sample consisting of (40) nurses working in maternity wards at the morning shift, selected from (8) teaching hospitals in Baghdad City. The data is collected by using evaluation tools (observation tool), it is designed and constructed for the purpose of the study. The observation tool represent evaluation of postoperative nursing care for women undergoing hysterectomy at maternity wards specifically surgical wound site, vital signs and vaginal discharge. The instrument has been validated by (12) experts with more than 8 years of experience in various fields, a reliability is determined by the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient is (r = 0.94). The data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential data analysis methods by the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
1. Vital Signs Measurement
The overall evaluation of nurses’ nursing care for vital signs measurement is inadequate (Table 1), this is revealed in the mean of scores of their items as all of them are with low level of evaluation (Table 2). During the data collection process it was observed that nurses in most hospitals measure one part or another one of the vital signs, which is either blood pressure or temperature measurement or both. There are hospitals where nurses won’t measure all of the vital signs. Also, it was sadly noticed that some nurses document unreal vital signs in the patient's health record. This finding is consistent with a study conducted in Baghdad hospitals’ surgical wards; nurses measure patients’ temperature only from the four vital signs measurements (14).

2. Surgical Wound Site Care
The overall evaluation of nurses’ nursing care for surgical wound site care is fair (Table 3), which is obvious in the mean of scores of their items as most of them are with low level of evaluation (Table 4). As for the surgical wound site care, the findings indicated that their performance is low in all the evaluation items except of ensuring to keep the operation site closed (Table 4). For instance they did not check the site of the operation to ensure the presence or absence of complications and they did not orient the patient about applying pressure on the site of the wound when coughing or how to be careful and cautious with the wound.
surgical wound site care is a vital component of nursing care that must be completed according to the standards of care in order to minimize post-operative complications such wound infections, thus the nurse must keep a constant eye on the wound healing process (13).

3. Vaginal Discharge Monitoring
The overall evaluation of nurses’ nursing care for vaginal discharge monitoring is inadequate (Table 5), the mean of scores of their items are with low level of evaluation (Table 6). Those nurses did not care for this aspect according to the standards of care. When the sutures dissolve and the tissues have healed, bloody vaginal discharge is typical for several days to weeks after a hysterectomy. Vaginal bleeding after a hysterectomy should be mild in most cases. Sometimes there are blood spots or pink discharge. But if the bleeding is heavy, such as during menstruation, this indicates the occurrence of complications of hysterectomy (15).

IV. CONCLUSIONS
most nurses provided an inadequate level of nursing care; nurses perform some of the tasks and responsibilities assigned to them to the fullest, however other tasks did not completely perform them as they should be. The study found a disparity between the postoperative nursing cares provided to women who undergone hysterectomy related to vital signs measurements surgical wound care, vaginal discharge monitoring are the weakest.

This discrepancy is due to several factors; nurses/patients ratio is below the standards, work overload due to nurses shortage, nurses’ lack of the knowledge and practice to this type of care, and weak monitoring and emphasizing from the hospitals’ administration.

The study confirmed that years of practice in maternity wards, education and training courses have a crucial impact on postoperative nursing care for women who undergone hysterectomy, as far as these nurses peruse better education associated with wide-range and benefit-wise training, the quality of their postoperative nursing care can affectedly improve.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS
Planning and implementation of training educational programs regarding the nursing care of patients who have undergone hysterectomy. Employment of more nurses in the area of gynecological care to manage the gap between nurses/patients ratio. Hospitals’ administration need to play more powerful role in monitoring and evaluating the care provided to patients in Maternity Wards.

Table (1): Overall Evaluation of Vital Signs of Post-operative Care for Women undergone Hysterectomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inadequate (4-6.66)</th>
<th>Fair (6.67-9.33)</th>
<th>Adequate (9.34-12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 (100.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results, out of this table, indicate that all of the nurses have delivered inadequate postoperative nursing care relative to vital signs (100%).

Table (2): Mean of Scores on Items of Vital Signs of Post-operative Care for Women undergone Hysterectomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vital Signs Measurement:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Temperature measurement.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Blood pressure measurement.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Pulse measurement.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Respiration measurement.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MS: Mean of scores, Low: MS < 2

Results, out of this table, show that the mean of scores is low on all items of vital signs measurement.
Results, out of this table, indicate that all of the nurses have delivered fair postoperative nursing care relative to site of surgical wound (100%).

Table (4): Mean of Scores on Items of Postoperative Nursing Care for Women undergone Hysterectomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>The nurse checks the site of the operation to make sure that there is no problem with the wound.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>The nurse ensures to keep the operation site closed.</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Teaching the patient to apply pressure to the site of the wound when coughing by using a small pillow or a folded towel to protect the wound.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Teach the patient how to take care of the site of the operation wound to get a quick recovery without complications; keep moisture away from the area of the operation wound... etc.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MS: Mean of Scores, High: MS > 2, Low: MS < 2

Results, out of this table, show that the mean of scores is high on item 2 and low on the remaining items of surgical wound.

Table (5): Overall Evaluation of Vaginal Discharge of Post-operative Nursing Care for Women undergone Hysterectomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inadequate (3-5)</th>
<th>Fair (5.1-7)</th>
<th>Adequate (7.1-9)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 (100.0%)</td>
<td>(0.0%)</td>
<td>(0.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results, out of this table, indicate that all of the nurses have delivered inadequate postoperative nursing care relative to vaginal discharge (100%).

Table (6): Mean of Scores on Items of Vaginal Discharge of Postoperative Nursing Care Women undergone Hysterectomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Count the number of pads used during the day.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Check the color of vaginal discharge.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Examine the smell of vaginal discharge.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MS: Mean of Scores, Low: MS < 2

Results, out of this table, present that the mean of scores is low on all items vaginal discharge.

REFERENCE


