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Selection of site by nurses in intramuscular injection administration to adult patients: A cross-sectional study

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Although intramuscular injection is one of the nursing practices frequently performed by nurses, the knowledge of nurses on intramuscular injection sites and method is not sufficient and evidence-based. This study was conducted to determine the injection sites selected by nurses in intramuscular (IM) drug administration and the factors that affect the selection of site. Population of this descriptive cross-sectional study consists of 250 nurses who work at two private hospitals in Istanbul. Sample group of the study included 171 nurses (68.4% of the population), who were selected from said population using the stratified random sampling method. The data were collected through a questionnaire developed by the researchers, and frequency, percentage, minimum, maximum, mean, standard deviation and chi-square methods were used in the analysis of data. It was found that average age of the nurses is 26.27 (SS=7.46) years, average duration of professional experience is 68.96 (SS=84.53) months, average duration of experience in the unit is 32.78 (SS=38.41) months, majority of nurses in the first line (62.6%) are graduated vocational school of health, and they have worked in units like emergency, surgery, intensive care unit, obstetrics/delivery room, surgical units, pediatric, and polyclinic. It was also determined that 40.4% of nurses administer IM injection very frequently (more than 5 times a week), 83.6% of nurses firstly prefer dorsogluteal site for IM injection, 74.9% have not received a training on IM injection administration sites in recent times, 73.7% have not read any literature, but 76% can transfer their knowledge to practice. On the other hand, from among the nurses who stated that they recently received training on IM injection administration sites and read literature, 21.9% said that deltoid site is recommended for IM injection, 65.8% said laterofemoral site, 47.2% said ventrogluteal site, and 77.8% said dorsogluteal site. When the knowledge level of nurses on complications which may develop depending on the IM injection site was examined, it was observed that they know that a pain/discomfort develops in all administration sites but some do not develop; although there is a risk of nerve injury development in the deltoid site, considerable majority of them claim that nerve injury will not develop; although there is no risk of sciatic nerve damage development in the ventrogluteal site, some nurses stated otherwise; and although there is a risk of bone injury, vascular injury, infection, necrosis, tissue irritation, nodule or hardness, abscess and hematoma in all sites, some nurses do not report these complications as a risk. It was also found that variables such as age, professional education status and duration of experience of nurses do not affect selection of site in IM injection administration, but the unit where they work and duration of experience in that unit affect selection of site when administering IM injection. The nurses frequently prefer dorsogluteal site for administering IM injection, their knowledge about the complications which may develop in the sites they select for IM injection is insufficient, the unit where the nurses work and duration of experience in that unit affect their selection of site in IM injection administration.

Biography

Nuray Turan has completed her Ph.D at the age of 30 years from Istanbul University, Institute of Health Sciences. She is graduated from Istanbul University, Florence Nightingale School of Nursing. She is working at Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Department of Fundamentals of Nursing since 2005. Her areas of interest are intramuscular injection, complementary therapy, nursing informatics, nursing process and nursing care. Author and co-author of articles, books and other publications on fundamentals of nursing and leader of statutory research projects. She is member of Turkish Nurses Society, Nursing Education Society, and Graduates Florence Nightingale School of Nursing Society.

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