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The ability of newly qualified Saudi pediatric nurses to recognize the deteriorating child**Daifallah Al-Thubaity**

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Background: Nurses failure to recognize and respond to deterioration in children's physiological status result in delays to their referral for medical treatment. Without timely intervention they are at risk of cardiopulmonary arrest, increased morbidity and mortality. It is essential therefore that nurses are able to effectively process and evaluate clinical observations.

Aim: To explore the perception and ability of both graduate and diploma Saudi-trained newly qualified nurses working in pediatric wards to recognize the deteriorating child in hospital in two Saudi Arabian regions.

Method: Mixed method approach (involving cognitive interviews around three vignettes) to generate both quantitative and qualitative data, using a 'Talk Aloud' technique.

Result: 27 nurses completed phase-1 (15 from A region and 12 from B region). The results of the quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. When the individual responses to the clinical vignettes were analyzed, none of the 27 nurses had responded correctly to all three vignettes. In total, there were less than half (43.2%) of correct responses by the nurses to all three vignettes.

Conclusion: The findings confirms the previous work from other countries, that recognition of the deteriorating child is complex and even in non-stressful simulated scenarios, many nurses working with children failed to recognize the deteriorating child. There were significant differences between the regions and by educational level of the nurses. A focused (culturally-specific) educational intervention will now be developed to target this, responding to Saudi nurses' perceived education and training needs.

Biography

Daifallah Al-Thubaity is currently pursuing PhD at University of Central Lancashire, UK. He has completed his MSc in Nursing and is a Clinical Instructor at Al Baha University, Saudi Arabia and has more than 12 years of experience in clinical field.

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