

NURSING CARE FOR PATIENTS AFTER ABDOMINAL SURGERIES: ASSESSMENT OF THE PATIENTS AT SURGICAL WARD OF HA NAM GENERAL HOSPITAL IN 2020

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To describe the nursing care for patients after abdominal surgery at Surgical Ward in Ha Nam General Hospital in 2020. **Method:** Descriptive cross - sectional study was conducted to collect data by interviewing with structured questionnaires from 123 patients at Surgical Ward in Ha Nam General Hospital. **Results:** Through the assessment of the patient, most of the nursing care's contents was done well. In particular, providing

treatment support and coordinated doctor's medical orders reached the highest rate (87.0%); following by the reception of patients (85.4%), Monitoring and evaluation of patients (80.5%). **Conclusion:** Nursing care for patients after abdominal surgery in Ha Nam General Hospital has a rather high satisfactory rate.

Keywords: Nursing care, post-operative patients, abdominal.

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the past decade, the number of abdominal surgeries has tended to increase. In Europe and America countries, abdominal surgery was the second position in the ranking of all surgical operations [1]. Viet Nam is similar to other countries in the world, with the statistics of over 30453 patients from 2003 to 2007, abdominal surgery accounts for the highest percentage (36.9%) [2]. Abdominal surgery is related to pain, body shape change, fluid disturbances, bleeding during and after surgery, anesthesia complications ... The post-operative stage is the period which has many physiological disordered, including: dysfunction of respiratory, circulatory

system, pain stimulation, kidney dysfunction, blood clotting disorder, hypothermia ... due to anesthesia or surgery. The surgery, whether simple or complex, causes stress and anxiety for the patient and the patient's family [3]. Therefore, taking care of the patients before, during and after surgery is very important.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the care provided by the nurse is one of the core of the healthcare system. Taking care of patients at the hospital plays an important role in treatment, especially for post-operative patients. The more complicated surgery, the more affected to the patient's body [4].

According to a study by Dang Duy Quang on the care needs of patients after surgery at Hue Central Hospital in 2014, post-operative patients need medical care, social care, physical care and mental care accounted for 85.0%; 79.0%; 43.8%; 47.6% [5]. According to a study by Ngo Thi Tuyet et al in 2018, the situation of nursing care

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for patients at Thai Nguyen Central General Hospital has showed that there are many factors that negative affect to nursing care such as: lack of facilities, equipment, human resource, number of patients ... [6] Some factors can improve the quality of care, limit complications and ensure safety for patients such as the nurses' good knowledge and skills to care for patients, having enough time [7].

In Ha Nam General Hospital, Surgery Ward has 21 staff, including 8 doctors and 13 nurses. Each month, there are about 15-20 patients were had abdominal surgery in this ward. Up to now, there has not been a complete study on the nursing care in this hospita. So that, to answer questions: Current situation of nursing care after abdominal surgery? What factors are related to nursing care? are practical valuable information to help nurses and managers to develop an intervention plan to improve quality in the field of occupational disease.

The study was conducted with the aim: To describe the nursing care for patients after abdominal surgery at Surgical Ward in Ha Nam General Hospital in 2020.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

2.1. Research subjects

Patients had surgery at the Surgery Ward at Ha Nam General Hospital during the period from January 2020 to July 2020.

2.2. Research design

Cross-sectional descriptive study

2.3. Sample size and sampling method

- Sample size

Applying formula

$$n = Z_{1-\alpha/2}^2 \times \frac{p \times (1-p)}{d^2}$$

Inside:

- n: Sample size required

- p: percentage of patients evaluating that good nursing performance is estimated at 50%

- $Z_{1-\alpha / 2} = 1.96$ (Confidence is: 95%)

- $d = 0.1$ (chooses error of 10%)

=> $n = 96$

- Sampling method: According to the survey, the average number of patients with abdominal surgery at ward is about 15 to 20 patients/month. Therefore, convenient sampling method was used to chose patientsfor this study. 123 patients who met the criteria were choose to the study.

2.4. Research instruments

The research instruments which were used in this study was built on Quach Chi Dong's research [12]. The questionnaire has been modified and used in the pilot study with 15 patients. The questionnaire consists of 2 parts:

Part I: General information of the patient.

Part II: Contents of care including: Reception of patients; Psychological and spiritual care for patients; Monitoring and evaluation of patients; Providing treatment support and coordinate doctor's medical orders

2.5. Data collection.

All data were collected by interviewing with structured questionnaires .

Patients who meet the criteria were selected and explained about the study, ethical issues, data collection procedures and invited them to participate in the research. After that, patients answered the questions. It took patients about 10 - 15 minutes to finish.

After having all necessary information, data collecting forms were checked for completeness and prepared for analysis.

2.6. Data analysis

- The data were synthesized by using SPSS 20.0 software.

- Descriptive statistical including mean, percentage, standard deviation were used to describe the general information of subjects, the nursing care for the patients.

3. RESULTS

Table 1. Demographic factors of subjects (n =123)

Contents		Number	Percentage
Age	≤ 30	8	6.5
	31 – 59	59	48
	≥ 60	56	45.5
Gender	Male	108	87.8
	Female	15	12.2
Education level	Primary school	10	8.1
	Secondary school	31	25.2
	High school	45	36.6
	and above	37	30.1
Accommodation	Urban	42	34.1
	Rural	81	65.9

According to research results: The patient who was youngest was 17 years old and who was oldest was 85 years old. The majority of the subjects was group 31–59 years old (48%). More than a half of the patients living in the rural (65.9%)

Table 2. Reception of patients (n =123)

Contents		Number	Percentage
The nurses was performed with an attitude of warmth, sympathy and bed-folding as soon as the patient entered the ward	Fully perform	114	92.7
	Perform but not fully	9	7.3
	Not perform	0	0.0
Implement instructions on administrative procedures when the patient entered the ward	Fully perform	113	91.9
	Perform but not fully	10	8.1
	Not perform	0	0.0
Informing patients about their rights and obligations, internal rules, and other regulations while being treated in the ward.	Fully perform	112	91.1
	Perform but not fully	11	8.9
	Not perform	0	0.0

More than 90% of patients indicated that activities of reception of patients was fully perform. In details, the nurses was performed with an attitude of warmth, sympathy and bed-folding as soon as the patient entered the ward (92.7%), Implement instructions on administrative procedures when the patient entered the ward (91.9%), Informing patients about their rights and obligations, internal rules, and other regulations while being treated in the ward (91.1%).

Table 3. Psychological and spiritual care for patients (n = 123)

Contents		Number	Percentage
Care, share, and ask about the health of the patient in the course of care and treatment	Fully perform	107	87
	Perform but not fully	16	13
	Not perform	0	0.0
Encourage the patient to feel secure in treatment during the process of care and procedures.	Fully perform	105	85.4
	Perform but not fully	18	16.4
	Not perform	0	0.0
Promptly respond to concerns and questions of patients in the treatment and care process	Fully perform	107	87
	Perform but not fully	13	10.6
	Not perform	3	2.4
Attitude, behavior, verbal communication and behavior with patients.	Fully perform	113	91.9
	Perform but not fully	10	9.1
	Not perform	0	0.0

Psychological and spiritual care for patients are highly appreciated by the patient. Through patients' evaluating, nurses implemented fully perform activities with the percentage as follow: Care, share, and ask about the health of the patient in the course of care and treatment (87%); Encourage the patient to feel secure in treatment during the process of care and procedures (85.4%); Promptly respond to concerns and questions of patients in the treatment and care process (87%); Attitude, behavior, verbal communication and behavior with patients (91.9%).

Table 4. Monitoring and evaluation of patients (n = 123)

Contents		Number	Percentage
Nurses performed daily measurements of pulse, temperature, blood pressure for patients during hospital stay	Fully perform	104	84.6
	Perform but not fully	19	15.4
	Not perform	0	0
Nurses monitor progress, ask questions about the patient's illness every day during the hospital stay	Fully perform	112	91.1
	Perform but not fully	11	8.9
	Not perform	0	0
Nurses come immediately and treat promptly when the patient has abnormal signs.	Fully perform	109	88.6
	Perform but not fully	14	11.4
	Not perform	0	0

Mainly of the patients indicated that nurses were fully perform monitoring and evaluation of patients with the percentage as follow: Nurses performed daily measurements of pulse, temperature, blood pressure for patients during hospital stay (84.6%); nurses monitor progress, ask questions about the patient's illness every day during the hospital stay (91.1%); nurses come immediately and treat promptly when the patient has abnormal signs (88.6%)

Table 5. Providing treatment support and coordinate doctor's medical orders (n =123)

Contents	Number	Percentage	
Nurses make informed, explain the work was going to do before making medical doctor's orders	Fully perform	105	85.4
	Perform but not fully	18	14.6
	Not perform	0	0
Nurses check the name and age of the patient, fully explain before each medical order to the patient..	Fully perform	112	91.1
	Perform but not fully	11	8.9
	Not perform	0	0
Nurses clearly announced the name of the drug, the quantity of the drug, and publicly announced the drug used in the day to the patients.	Fully perform	108	87.8
	Perform but not fully	15	12.2
	Not perform	0	0
Nurses perform oral medicines for patients in bed, in the presence of the nurse	Fully perform	105	85.4
	Perform but not fully	18	14.6
	Not perform	0	0
Nurses encourage and explain clearly before each injection, infusion, dressing change ... to the patients	Fully perform	113	91.9
	Perform but not fully	10	8.9
	Not perform	0	0
Nurses instruct the patient what to prepare before each test and scan.	Fully perform	109	88.6
	Perform but not fully	14	11.4
	Not perform	0	0
The nurses brought patients to the place for testing and screening.	Fully perform	107	87
	Perform but not fully	16	13
	Not perform	0	0

The results showed that most of the contents assessed by the patients were fully perform with the percentage as follow: Nurses make informed, explain the work was going to do before making medical doctor's orders (85.4%); Nurses check the name and age of the patient, fully explain before each medical order to the patient (91.1%); Nurses clearly announced the name of the drug, the quantity of the drug, and publicly announced the drug used in the day to the patients (87.8%); Nurses perform oral medicines for patients in bed, in the presence of the nurse (85.4%); Nurses encourage and explain clearly before each injection, infusion, dressing change ... to the patients (91.9%); Nurses instruct the patient what to prepare before each test and scan (88.6%); The nurses brought the patients to the place for testing and screening (87%).

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Reception of patients

The research results showed that: 92.7% of the patients said the nurses was performed with an attitude of warmth, sympathy and bed-folding as soon as the patient entered the ward, Implement instructions on administrative procedures when the patient entered the ward (91.9%), Informing patients about their rights and obligations, internal rules, and other regulations while being treated in the ward (91.1%). Satisfactory rate overall for the reception of patients was 85.4%. This finding is lower than some researches such as: study of Quach Chi Dong in 2018 (93%) [8], study of Duong Thi Binh Minh in 2012 (95.8%) [9] and study of Chu Thi Hai Yen (97.2%) [10]. The results may be that the patients at Huu Nghi Hospital is a senior central officer of the Party and State, is a policy object, so the patients are more attentive when receiving. The implementation of the patient care model and the specificity of the Emergency Ward so the proportion of nurses in charge of caring for a patient is higher than in other ward, so it is possible that factors that help the reception of patients in the study of Chu Thi Hai Yen had a higher rate. The satisfactory rate in our study is lower than that in the study of Nguyen Thuy Chau in 2014 at Khanh Hoa General Hospital with 88% of the patients being well received when entering the hospital [11]. The above results are due to the hospital's good implementation of "Renewing the service style and attitude of health workers towards patient satisfaction".

4.2. Psychological and spiritual care for patients

Patients evaluate that nurses perform well activities such as: care, share, and ask about the health of the patient in the course

of care and treatment (87%); Encourage the patient to feel secure in treatment during the process of care and procedures (85.4%); Promptly respond to concerns and questions of patients in the treatment and care process (87%); Attitude, behavior, verbal communication and behavior with patients (91.9%). Besides, there are still 10.6% of patients who believe that nurses have not done well in answering their concerns and questions during treatment and care. The rate of general Psychological and spiritual care for patients was 79.7%. This finding is lower than the study of Duong Thi Binh Minh in 2012 (94.9%) [9]; the study of Chu Thi Hai Yen in 2013 (94.7%) [10]; Dao Duc Hanh in 2015 (94.8%) [13]. However, this finding is higher than the study of Nguyen Thi Bich Nga in 2015 (78.8%) [12]. The explanation for the differences in results of the authors may be due to geographic characteristics as well as the different scope of research (at the ward, at the hospital, and at the provincial level).

4.3. Monitoring and evaluation of patients

According to results, mainly of the patients indicated that nurses were fully perform monitoring and evaluation of patients with the percentage as follow: Nurses performed daily measurements of pulse, temperature, blood pressure for patients during hospital stay (84.6%); nurses monitor progress, ask questions about the patient's illness every day during the hospital stay (91.1%); nurses come immediately and treat promptly when the patient has abnormal signs (88.6%). The rate of general monitoring and evaluation of patients was 80.5%. This finding is still lower than some studies such as: the study of Duong Thi Binh Minh in 2012 (94%) [9], the study of Chu Thi Hai Yen in 2013 at the Department of Emergency Resuscitation of the Agricultural Hospital

(96.1%), the study of Nguyen Thi Bich Nga in 2015 at the Central Lung Hospital (85%) [12]. In general, Monitoring and evaluation of patients is highly appreciated by the patients, but still 19.5% of the patients believe that nurses have not done well in monitoring their disease progress. This shows that it is necessary to have more regular inspection, supervision and urge by the ward leadership team, the dean of the ward in the strict implementation of the professional regulations.

4.4. Providing treatment support and coordinate doctor's medical orders

Nurses perform oral medicines for patients in bed, in the presence of the nurse (85.4%) is one of the most important task of nurses. This finding is higher than some studies such as: the study by Nguyen Thuy Chau in 2014 at Khanh Hoa General Hospital (61%) [11], the study of Bui Anh Tu in 2015 at the Military Institute of Traditional Medicine (13.5%) [14]. However, this finding is lower than study of Chu Thi Hai Yen in 2013 at the Emergency Recovery Department of Agricultural Hospital (99.3%) [10].

According to the results of this study, most of the contents assessed by the patients were fully perform with the percentage as follow: Nurses make informed, explain the work was going to do before making medical doctor's orders (85.4%); Nurses check the name and age of the patient, fully explain before each medical order to the patient (91.1%); Nurses clearly announced the name of the drug, the quantity of the drug, and publicly announced the drug used in the day to the patients (87.8%); Nurses perform oral medicines for patients in bed, in the presence of the nurse (85.4%); Nurses encourage and explain clearly before each injection, infusion, dressing change ... to the patients (91.9%); Nurses

instruct the patient what to prepare before each test and scan (88.6%); The nurses brought the patients to the place for testing and screening (87%).

The general rate of providing treatment support and coordinate doctor's medical orders was 83%. This result is higher than study of Nguyen Thuy Chau in 2014 (79,3%) [11], the research of Nguyen Thi Bich Nga in 2015 at the Central Lung Hospital (81.2%). The reasons for this finding was the Hospital has done a good job in inspecting, monitoring and urging nursing and especially successfully implemented Circular 07/2011/TT-BYT on guiding the taking care of patients in hospitals.

5. CONCLUSION

The status of the nursing care for patients after abdominal surgery at Hanam General Hospital through the view of the patient has a rather high satisfactory rate:

+ 85.4% of the patients assessment nurses fully perform receipt of patients

+ 80.5% of the patients assessed nurses fully perform monitored and evaluated for patients.

+ 79.7% of the patients assessed nurses fully perform psychological and spiritual care for patients was

+ 83% of the patients assessment nurses fully perform provided treatment support and coordinated doctor's medical orders

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