# ABSTRACT

Background

Pain assessment is critical to optimal pain management interventions. While pain is highly a subjective experience, its management necessitates objective standards of care. Pain assessment should be ongoing (occurring at regular intervals), individualized and documented so that all involved in the patient's care understand the pain problem. Objective: The aim of the study was determine the factors influencing pain assessment and management practices among nurses caring for surgical patients at Mityana Hospital


Method

A descriptive cross sectional study was employed to determine the factors influencing pain assessment and management practices among nurses caring for surgical patients at Mityana Hospital. A total of 77 nurses from the hospital were included in this study using non probability, convenient sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 17.

Result

From the assessment done, 87.0% of the nurses assessed pain, years of working experience($X_2$=7.913, P=0.007), the units/ward which a nurse currently works ($X_2$=3.625, P=0.005),Awareness about pain assessment during surgical patient care ($X_2$=11.439, P=0.015), having training on pain assessment especially after surgery ($X_2$=3.880, P=0.033), availability of pain assessment tool in wards ($X_2$=1.357, P=0.007), thought that pain assessment is important ($X_2$=3.852, P=0.009), have received training of pain assessment tool ($X_2$=1.564, P=0.026), having attended any training on pain management within the last one year ($X_2$=13.312, P=0.021), how pain is managed in the ward (X2=7.25, P=0.000), availability of the pain assessment tool in the ward ($X_2$=9.752, P=0.045), helpfulness of pain tool in effective pain assessments in effective pain assessment ($X_2$=6.020, P=0.010), helpfulness of pain tools

ineffective pain management for perfect recovery ($X2=3.724$, $P=0.044$), availability of guidelines regarding pain assessments and management in the wards ($X2=2.579$, $P=0.008$), availability of pain assessment tools in the ward ($X2=3.088$, $P=0.033$) and prioritization of pain assessment and management ($X2=1.700$, $P=0.048$) had a significant influence on the assessment and management of pain.

Conclusion

pain assessment is affected by knowledge, attitude of the nurses on pain assessments, pain assessment tools and pain management, availability of the tools and hospital set standards on how to manage pain. Thus, providing adequate pain assessment tools, regular training and supervision on pain assessment and management are recommended to improve the problems of inappropriate pain assessment and management.