ABSTRACT

Background: An increase in the day surgery rate over the last 15 years has saved the approximately £2 billion and enabled 1·3 million more surgical patients to be treated within the minimal stay setting, high patient turnover is implicit, multitasking common and intervention undertaken during time limited nurse patient encounters. There is empirical evidence that effective nursing care remains a crucial element in such settings and the information provided of vital importance to aid patient satisfaction, reduce anxiety and enable a swift home recovery.

Objectives: The main objective was to assess factors influencing adherence to pre-operative assessment of patients prior to surgery among Nurses on Surgical ward at Mulago Hospital in Kampala District. A descriptive cross-sectional survey was employed because the data was collected once at the point in time using qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study was carried out in Kampala District Mulago national referral hospital. The study involved all nurses who consented to be interviewed. A sample size 50 nurses on surgical wards was interviewed. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the study participants because only nurses who are currently working in surgical wards are being targeted for this study. A self administered questionnaire was used for data collection. The research instruments were pretested in Lubaga hospital before the final data collection was carried out. Quantitative variables were analyzed using Epi info.

Methods: Categorical variables were analyzed using Chi- square tests. Majority 45 (90.00%) of the respondents was in the age range of 20-40years. Majority, 27 (54.00%) of the respondents had at least attained a certificates. 24 (48.00%) of them had a working experience of 2-5years while 14(28.00%) of them had a working experience of 1-2years and least 12 (24.00%) of them had worked for over six years. 18 (36.00%) of them worked in orthopedist department and were nursing officers. 47(94.00%) revealed that stress was a key factor for poor adherence to pre-operative assessment of patients prior to surgery. Majority 33(66.00%) of them were knowledgeable about pre-operative assessment of patients while 17(34.00%) of them noted that they were less knowledgeable. 39(78.00%) of the respondents assessed surgical patients prior to surgery while 11(22.00%) of them never assessed the patients prior to surgery.

Conclusion and Recommendation: The study concluded that Age, education attainment, working experience of a nurse, stress at the unit and increased patients' anxiety prior to surgery was one of the complications of not conducting pre-operative assessment of clients prior to surgery while 78.00% of the respondents assessed surgical patients prior to surgery by nurses in Mulago hospital.