

OP 22: Level of knowledge, attitudes, practices of cancer palliative care and their associated factors among nursing officers in Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama

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Introduction: Nursing officer, being the first contact of cancer patients, plays a prominent role in providing palliative care. Therefore, having good knowledge, favourable attitudes and correct practices in cancer palliative care uplifts patient quality of life.

Objectives: To describe the level of knowledge, attitudes, practices of cancer palliative care and associated factors among the nursing officers in Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out among 252 participants with more than one year of work experience at Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama. Data were collected using a pre-tested self-administered questionnaire. Data was analysed using SPSS software version 26. $P < 0.05$ was the significance level.

Results: The mean age of the study participants was 32.9 (SD= 6.55) years. Majority (59.5%) had good knowledge, 53.2% favourable attitudes and 54% engaged in correct practices. Mean knowledge score was 26.4 (SD= 3.44). Nurses above 30 years of age, married and having more than 10 years' experience had significant association with knowledge ($p < 0.05$). Most of the participants who had good knowledge had correct practices ($p < 0.0001$). Most of the participants who had favourable attitude had correct practices ($p < 0.0001$). Association of level of knowledge and attitude was not found to be statistically significant ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusions: Majority of the nurses had good knowledge, favourable attitudes and engaged in correct practices in palliative care. There is a significant association between the year of experience and the nurses' knowledge on palliative care. Having a good knowledge and favourable attitude on palliative care were positive factors for correct practices.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, Practices, Palliative care, Nurses, Cancer.