

Evaluation of Critical Care and Emergency Nurses' Knowledge on the Glasgow Coma Scale

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ABSTRACT

Precise evaluation of the level of consciousness of a patient by the use of Glasgow coma scale (GCS) is necessary to be able to detect changes in the neurology early. Intensive care and emergency nurses are supposed to have both theoretical and practical skills to be able to conduct GCS assessment. The objectives of the given study were to determine the level of knowledge of critical care and emergency nurses related to the Glasgow Coma Scale and to investigate the relationship between the scale and the demographic characteristics of the latter. The study was a descriptive cross-sectional study carried out at Basrah Teaching Hospitals in the Basrah Governorate between October 23, 2024, and April 10, 2025. A convenient sample of 50 intensive care nurses and emergency nurses was chosen. The data used were gathered through the method of a structured questionnaire of 20 items and interview. Cronbach alpha was used to confirm the reliability of the questionnaire with a value of 0.76. The analysis was done using descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. It was found that a majority of respondents were moderate to low in terms of their knowledge regarding the GCS. The correlations were found to be significant between the knowledge of nurses and their level of education, their working experience, and the courses they attended. There was no significant relationship with age, gender, and department ($P > 0.05$). The analysis shows that education, experience, and training of nurses can have a major influence on their competence in the assessment of GCS. These areas can be improved to make the quality of care to patients in critical and emergency settings better. The nurses in intensive care and emergency units need to have structured training programs that are based on the Glasgow Coma Scale to enhance on their knowledge and clinical skills.

Keywords: *Glasgow Coma Scale, Critical Care Nurses, Emergency Nurses, Knowledge.*

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