

## **Knowledge and Attitude towards Pain Management. A Comparison between Oncology and Non-Oncology Nurses in Jordan**

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### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Knowledge and attitudes of nurses toward pain management have an influence on medical judgment and patients' perception of pain control.

**Background:** Nurses' are responsible for accurate assessment of pain. Poor pain assessment may contribute to underestimating pain level leading to further anxiety and discomfort to the patient [1-3]. In addition, an optimal assessment would enhance positive communication between professionals in which all parties perceive the accurate level and tolerance of patient while he/she undergoes any medical procedure [4-6].

**Aim:** To assess and compare oncology and non-oncology nurses' knowledge and attitudes toward pain management.

**Method:** A cross sectional descriptive comparative design was used. Nurses were recruited conveniently from one specialized oncology center and one main general medical city in Jordan. Participants were required to complete a specific questionnaire. The total number of participant was 207 nurses (124 oncology and 93 non-oncology nurses)

**Results:** It was evident that oncology nurses received post-registration training or courses in the field of pain management more than non-oncology nurses. Both oncology and non-oncology nurses exhibited an appropriate knowledge and attitude toward pharmacological and non-pharmacological pain management strategies. However, oncology nurses scored higher in the overall knowledge and attitude toward pain compared to non-oncology nurses. Nurses showed knowledge deficit in assuming the risk for addiction and the use of narcotics in pediatric patients.

**Conclusions:** The study revealed that oncology nurses were more knowledgeable compared to non-oncology nurses in managing pain. Professional development for nurses in the field of pain management is required whether during academic preparations or post graduation.

**Keywords:** Attitudes, knowledge, nurse, pain management.

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