
***KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES OF ONCOLOGY NURSES
REGARDING PAIN MANAGEMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA
HOSPITALS.***

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Abstract: *Pain is a human experience that affects overall quality of life and one of the most common reasons for people seeking health care. Effective pain management requires precise knowledge, attitude and competent assessment skills. This study critically reviews the knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of nurses regarding pain management who are working in the Oncology Units (Oncology Nurses) in central region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The aim is to examine the Oncology Nurse's knowledge attitudes and beliefs in response to the management of pain in designated Oncology Units. The proposed study is anticipated to inform pain management protocols for oncology nurses in Kingdom of Saudi Arabian hospitals. A mixed method design incorporating survey, questionnaire and focus group interviews will be employed. The total population sample of nurses working in the Oncology Units of the three KSA Central Region Hospitals will be invited to participate in the study. These nurses will be accessed by obtaining an up to date list of all employed nurses from nursing office from each hospital. The study will involve two phases; the first phase will be nurses who are working in Oncology Units in the central regional hospitals (current total sample N=320). The nurses will be invited to fill a questionnaire entitled 'Nurses knowledge and attitudes survey regarding pain (KASRP)', English language version developed by Ferrell and McCaffery (2008). In phase two, six semi structured focus group interviews will be conducted. A total of up to 40 purposively selected nurses (six to seven per group) who participated in the original survey and have agreed to complete the interviews will be invited to participate.*

Keywords: *Pain management, Nurses' Knowledge, Nurses' attitudes, Saudi Arabia.*