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Improving Door-To-Needle Time (DTN) in Thrombolytic therapy in acute stroke optimizing a nursing education strategy

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The benefits of thrombolysis treatment (“clot busting therapy”) in patients with acute ischemic stroke are time-dependent, and guidelines recommend a door-to-needle time (DTN) of 60 minutes or less. One of the identified barriers of not meeting the target is the lack of awareness and education of healthcare providers responding to a stroke code activation. And nurses, being the front liners in the emergency unit, must have knowledge and skills in recognizing stroke in a timely fashion. A Specialized Stroke Nursing Program (SSNP), an evidence-based stroke program, was developed and implemented for emergency room (ER) nurses to gain an overview of early recognition and proactive management of stroke. Simulations, interactive cases, case presentation, and role playing were optimized as teaching-learning strategies. Three themes emerged from the participants’ evaluation: (1). Clinically relevant program for ER nurses, (2). The use of different teaching approaches works well to retain participants’ key learning points (3). The program has

a potential to improve patient’s outcomes after a stroke. From January 2017 to December 2017, a total of 37 patients received a thrombolysis therapy with a DTN > 60 minutes. Following an education intervention for ER nurses, from January 2018 to December 2018, a total of 43 patients had been thrombolized with DTN mean of less < 60 minutes. The study suggests that increasing awareness about “time is brain concept” in thrombolysis treatment could possibly change ER nurses’ perceptions toward urgent response to stroke.

Speaker Biography

Elmer Javier Catangui has completed his master’s degree in Nursing in the United Kingdom. He is currently taking his PhD in Nursing Science. He is the clinical nurse specialist in stroke care at the Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs, King Abdulaziz Medical City, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He has over 50 publications related to stroke care and have been cited in various International journals. He has invited as a guest speaker in International Meetings and Conferences.

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