

Abstract

Background and Purpose: Nurses often lack the formal education and tools needed to identify the rising rates of nonaccidental trauma in children. The purpose of this evidence-based, quality improvement project was to develop, implement, and evaluate the effects of an educational, interactive learning module on identifying pediatric nonaccidental trauma on nurses' self-efficacy and overall knowledge.

Methods: This project used a pre- and post-test design to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention among nurses in the pediatric emergency department at an urban, academical medical center with a Level 1 trauma designation. The self-paced, online learning module consisted of an overview of the current problem, followed by content that included relevant statistics, risk factors, screening tools, assessment findings, practice guidelines, and case studies. The nurses completed a 10-question 5-point Likert-style survey adapted from the Self-Efficacy in Clinical Performance instrument and a 10-question team developed knowledge assessment before and after the learning module. Data was collected on Qualtrics over 12-weeks and analyzed using parametric paired t-testing.

Results: A total of 28 pediatric emergency nurses completed the pre- and post-intervention assessments. The participants had a mean age of 30.8 years (SD 7.8), experience of 6.8 years (SD 7.8), and pediatric emergency experience of 3.9 (SD 4.7). Average self-efficacy scores increased significantly from pre- (35.8 ± 9.9) to post-test (45.7 ± 4.3), with a mean difference of 9.9 ± 8.2 ($t=6.45$, $p<.001$). Average knowledge scores also increased significantly from pre- (4.4 ± 1.5) to post-test (7.4 ± 1.5), with a mean difference of 3 ± 1.7 ($t=9.39$, $p<.001$).

Conclusions: This project found significant improvement in nurses' self-efficacy and knowledge of nonaccidental trauma recognition in the emergency department.

Implications: These findings can serve as a foundation for additional initiatives that draw attention to nonaccidental trauma and educate professionals in a variety of settings.

Keywords: nonaccidental trauma, emergency department, nursing, education, self-efficacy