



OP08

Assessing nursing needs for caring patients with substance overdose: The role of psychostimulants

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Objective

Cocaine and other psychostimulants (e.g., methamphetamine) are the most common stimulant-related Emergency Department (ED) visits. Nurses are more likely than other health care providers to be assaulted by psychostimulant users. The current study aimed to assess nursing needs for caring patients with substance overdose and compare difficulties in working with psychostimulant overdosed patients versus other substances in different hospital settings.

Method

In the present cross-sectional study, all nurses and nurse assistants with more than one year of experience working in the poisoning center of Loghman Hakim Hospital in Tehran, Iran were asked to complete a survey about healthcare providers' working issues in caring for patients with substances toxicity, as well as their recommendations to improve patients care in this group.

Result

A total number of 90 nurses and nurse assistants participated in this study. The survey response rate was 80% with 30 male and 51 female. Psychostimulants and opioids are the most challenging substances in caring patients among all types of substances (benzodiazepines, stimulants, opioids, cannabis) and alcohol. Most health care providers struggled to care for patients with psychostimulant toxicity, particularly in the ER (92%), ICU (92%), and pediatric ward (86%), and 75% of the participants in all poisoning wards experienced severe aggression.

Conclusion

Nursing staff, especially ED nurses, need more help in taking care of patients with psychostimulants toxicity. Participating hospital security officers to provide a safer work environment, as well as psychiatrist in managing aggression by prescribing appropriate medication, may improve the quality of patient care and nurses' job satisfaction.



Table 1. The most challenging substance overdose in caring based on the nursing staff's opinion (n=81)

Ward	gender	Substance				
		Opioid	Stimulant	Cannabinoid	Benzodiazepines	Alcohol
ED n(%)	female	0	2 (100)	0	0	1 (50)
	male	1 (9.1)	10 (90.9)	0	0	1 (9.1)
	p*	0.999	0.999	-	-	0.295
	total	1 (7.7)	12 (92.3)	0	0	2 (15.4)
Men n(%)	female	2 (40)	5 (100)	0	2 (40)	0
	male	0	0	0	4 (100)	0
	p*	0.444	0.008	-	0.167	0
	total	2 (22)	5 (56)	0	6 (67)	0
Women n(%)	female	1 (11.1)	7 (77.8)	0	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)
	male	0	0	0	0	0
	p*	-	-	-	-	-
	total	1 (11.1)	7 (77.8)	0	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)
Pediatric n(%)	female	5 (38.5)	11 (84.6)	0	0	0
	male	1 (100)	1 (100)	0	0	0
	p*	0.429	0.999	-	-	-
	total	6 (43)	12 (85.7)	0	0	0
ICU n(%)	female	3 (13.6)	21 (95.5)	1 (4.5)	0	3 (13.6)
	male	4 (28.6)	12 (85.7)	0	0	2 (14.3)
	p*	0.394	0.547	0.999	-	0.999
	total	7 (19.4)	33 (92)	1 (2.8)	0	5 (13.9)
P-value		0.198	0.079	0.867	<0.001	0.458
All wards n(%)	female	11 (21.6)	46 (90.2)	1 (2.0)	3 (5.9)	5 (9.8)
	male	6 (20.0)	23 (76.7)	0	4 (13.3)	3 (10.0)
	p	0.999	0.098	0.999	0.414	
	total	17 (21.0)	69 (85)	1 (1.2)	7 (8.6)	8 (9.9)
*Multiple substances could be chosen.*Fisher exact test						