Assessment of Iranian nurses and emergency medical staffs in terms of CPR knowledge based on the 2010 guideline

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Background: It is essential for hospital staffs, especially cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) team, to know advanced knowledge of CPR. Based on latest guidelines of CPR, this study was aimed to compare the CPR knowledge between hospital nurses and emergency medical staffs in Kermanshah, Iran.

Methods: This descriptive cross-sectional study was done on 330 hospital nurses and 159 emergency medical staffs working in educational hospitals and emergency medical centers in Kermanshah city. A validated and reliable (r = 0.74) researchers maker questionnaire was applied to assess the demographic characteristics and the 2010 CPR knowledge questionnaire of participants. Non-parametric tests and Spearman correlation were used for statistical analyses.

Results: Based on the latest guidelines of CPR, the knowledge of emergency medical staffs was as follows: Excellent: 19.5%; Good: 78.6%; Moderate: 1.9% and no Poor. In addition, the knowledge of nurses in this study was as follows: Excellent: 20.2%; Good: 65.4%; Moderate: 14% and Poor: 0.4%. There was no significant difference in CPR knowledge between hospital nurses and emergency medical staffs. Moreover, no significant association was found between CPR knowledge and gender, age, work experience, field of study, previous job and advanced training courses of resuscitation. However, CPR knowledge of individuals with training of basic CPR courses was higher than participants without training of these courses (P<0.05 .(

Conclusions: Base of finding of this study CPR knowledge in Iranian nurses and emergency medical staffs in acceptable range but strongly recommended to re-train the nurses and emergency staffs according to latest CPR guidelines with more emphasis on teaching ACLS, electroshock therapy and Automatic External Defibrillation (AED), the insertion of laryngeal airway and Combi tube.

Keywords: Nurses, Emergency Medical Technician, Knowledge, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)