

Deanship of Graduate Studies

Al- Quds University



**Knowledge and Attitudes of Mothers Toward the
Essential Care of Their Preterm Neonates Post Discharge
from Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in
Governmental Hospitals in Gaza Strip**

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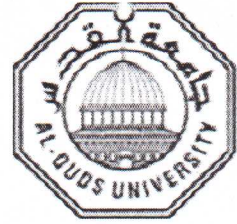
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Thesis Approval

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Jerusalem – Palestine

1440 / 2018

Dedication

I dedicate this effort to the great father who devoted this life for us.

To my dear mother who gave me the road of my success.

To my patient wife, who was beside me in every moment.

To my brothers, and all my relatives who encouraged me to complete this work.

To the Palestinian people especially for martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Palestine and Al- Aqsa.

To my friends for their support and encouragement

Ali Abdelrahman Aldirawi

Declaration

I certify that this research submitted for the degree of Master in the result of my own research, and that this thesis (or any of its parts) has been submitted from any other previous works to any other university or institution.

Signed:.....

Ali Abdelrahman Mahmoud Aldirawi

/ /

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Ali Abdelrahman Aldirawi

Abstract

Background: Preterm birth is one of most common health problems, associated with neonates admitted to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In 2016, preterm neonates constitute 40% of all admissions in NICU. Poor knowledge among mothers about the needs of preterm neonate is an important cause for immediate readmissions to NICU. The aim of study is to assess the knowledge and attitude of mothers toward providing care to their preterm neonates who discharged from the NICU of Governmental hospitals in Gaza Strip.

Methods: This study is quantitative, descriptive cross sectional investigation. The sample consisted of 120 mothers chosen conveniently and distributed equally to first 60 mothers of preterm neonates was discharge from NICU in Al-Shifa medical complex and Nasser Hospital. A questionnaire was constructed and data was collected by the researcher through a face to face interview with mothers of preterm.

Results: Results showed that 52% of mothers have knowledge on preterm care (P-value<0.05) and 84.6% have positive attitudes towards preterm care (P-value<0.05). There was significant differences in the level of mothers' attitude regarding preterm care between those who were admitted to Al-Shifa medical complex and those who were admitted to Nasser hospital, those who were admitted to Al-Shifa medical complex have significantly higher attitude than who were admitted to Nasser hospital (p<0.05). There was not association between parity and the level of knowledge among mothers of preterm neonate (P-value>0.05), there was no statistical differences in knowledge and attitudes with other factors: income, educational level, mothers age, area of residence, types of health educators, family members, and working status (P-value>0.05).

Conclusion and recommendations: This study revealed the presence of knowledge gap. The existing knowledge gap in key area of preterm neonate care can greatly affect the success of preterm care services. The researcher suggested that more emphasis is needed in maternal education during hospitalization in NICU prior to discharge, certain components of essential preterm care package need more emphasis during education program.

Key words: Knowledge, Attitude, Preterm. and Essential Care.

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List of Abbreviations

APH	Antepartum Hemorrhage
ART	Assisted Reproductive Technologies
CBR	Crud Birth Rate
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CDR	Crud Death Rate
C.S	Cesarean Section
EBF	Exclusive Breastfeeding
ELBW	Extremely Low Birth Weight
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GS	Gaza Strip
HCWs	Health Care Workers
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
IHME	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
IMR	Infant mortality rate
IVF	In Vitro Fertilization
KA	Knowledge and Attitude
MOH	Ministry of Health.
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
NNJ	Neonatal Jaundice
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PROM	Premature Rupture of Membrane
PTB	Preterm Birth
RDS	Respiratory Distress Syndrome