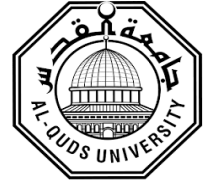


**Deanship of Graduate Studies  
Al- Quds University**



**Nurses' Knowledge and Practice in Assessment and  
Management of Neonatal Pain at Governmental  
Hospitals in Gaza Strip**

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**M. Sc. Thesis**

**Jerusalem-Palestine**

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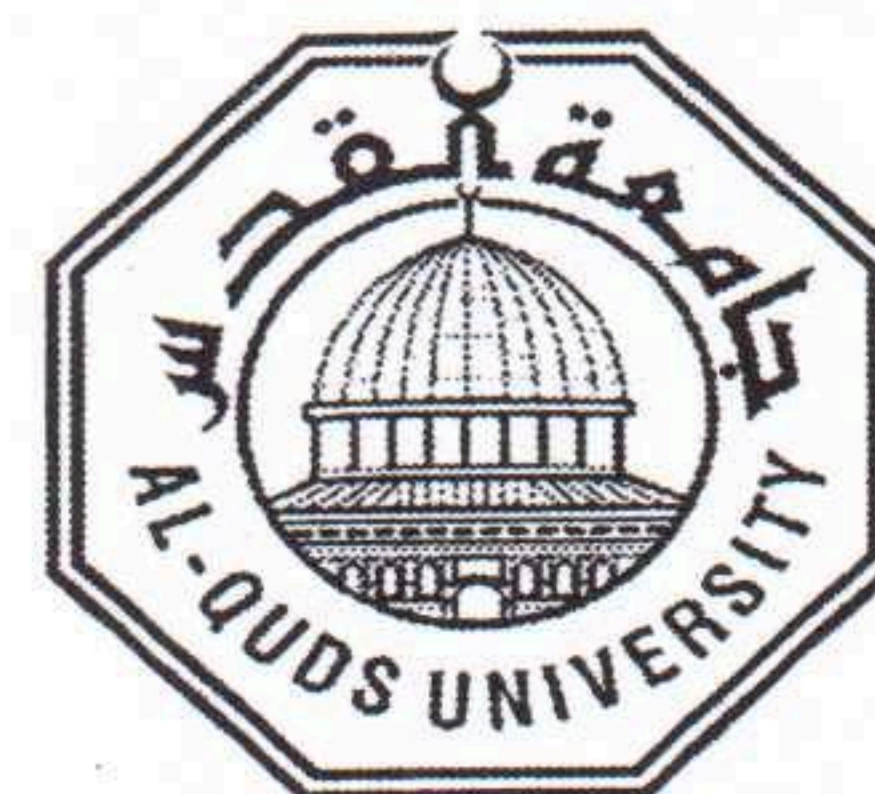
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**1441- 2019**

## **Dedication**

I dedicate this project to God Almighty my creator, my strong pillar, my source of inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

To my amazing mother and father whom without, I would not be the person that I am today. Thank you for being amazing role models, for always encouraging my dreams, and for all of the sacrifices you made in order for me to live the life I have.

To My beautiful Aunt Taghreed.

To my beloved wife Israa. I appreciate the sacrifices you have made in helping me realize my dream.

To my son Khaled and my beautiful daughters Sara and Malak who are the joy of my life for their patience and support.

To my brothers and sisters Faraj, Israa, Mahmoud, Ahmed, Amal, Said, Mohamed, Heba and Saja, thank you for being my cheerleaders and for showing patience and tolerance with my busy schedule.

To my homeland Palestine

To the Holy Land of Jerusalem

To whom born too soon, you inspire me every day to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

To. All of them I dedicate this work.

**Signed:** Yuonis K. S. Qasem

**Date:**

## **Declaration**

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis (or any of its parts) has not been submitted for higher degree to any other university or institution.

Signed: .....

Yuonis K. S. Qasem

Date: / /

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## Abstract

Pain among neonates whom admitted to neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) is a common phenomenon as they exposed to a variety of painful procedures that may result in physiological and behavioral alterations, as well as changes in the development of the nervous system and long-term harm. The pain is considered the fifth vital sign, the nurses have an important role in assessing and managing pain by using multi non-pharmacological and pharmacological methods and involvement of physicians and family in pain assessment and management. The study aimed to investigate neonatal nurses' knowledge and practices related to pain assessment and management that may contribute to improve the quality of pain management by nurses at NICUs of governmental hospitals in Gaza Strip. The study design was quantitative, descriptive cross sectional, conducted at the NICUs affiliated to the governmental hospitals " Al Shifa Hospital - Al Nasser Pediatric Hospital - European Gaza Hospital ". The sample consisted of all nurses working in NICUs. The total number of nurses was 102. The data were collected from study participants by using a self-administered questionnaire. The response rate was 100%. The data collected were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistical tests with level of statistical significance at  $p < 0.5$ . The level of Knowledge and Practice were categorized into five groups "very low < 60%, low 60% - 69.99%, moderate 70% - 79.99%, high 80% - 89.99%, very high 90% - 100%". The results showed that nurses had low total knowledge level with mean percentages (67.07%) and low total practice level with mean percentages (61.04%). There was significant weak correlation between nurse's knowledge and practices  $r = (0.343)$ . There were significant differences in the nurses' knowledge and practices between their different gender, in favor to male nurses. There were significant differences in the nurses' knowledge between their different educational qualification, in favor to nurses who have master. There were significant differences in the participants' practice between who received course or educational program related to assessment and management on neonatal pain at NICU and who didn't receive ( $P < 0.05$ ). This study revealed that the nurses had high level of knowledge (81.33%) and low level of practices (68.2%) towards involving physicians in assessment and management of neonatal pain. And show that the nurses had moderate level of knowledge (70.66%) and very low level of practices (58.6%) towards involving families in assessment & management of the pain of their neonates. Therefore, the study recommended to developing course or educational program related to assessment and management of neonatal pain to promote their integrated pain management care for neonates.

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