Abstract

Introduction: Hemodynamic monitoring is the observation of physiologic parameters of the cardiovascular system. Hemodynamic (from the words ‘blood’ and ‘power’ in Greek) refers to the forces that determine blood flow in the circulation. The purpose of hemodynamic monitoring is to observe that adequate mean arterial pressure, tissue perfusion, and oxygen delivery remain adequate. Invasive Arterial Blood Pressure (IABP) & Central Venous Pressure (CVP) are basic hemodynamic index often utilized to guide therapeutic interventions, in critically ill patients. Inaccurate IABP & CVP measuring creates a potential for misdiagnosis and mismanagement. Literature on nurse’s knowledge and practice on hemodynamic monitoring is limited, but the studies published and unpublished, indicate a general knowledge deficit in hemodynamic monitoring. This has prompted the researcher to carry out a research on, ”knowledge and practice on hemodynamic monitoring among nurses in critical care unit, Kenyatta National Hospital.”

Study objective: The purpose of the study is to determine Critical care nurses’ knowledge and practice on hemodynamic monitoring.

Materials and methods: The study population will be the nurses working in the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) intensive care unit at the time of the study. The researcher will use sample size of 98 subjects from a target population of 131 nurses. The researcher will use Simple random sampling method in order to select study participants. The sampling frame will be the duty rota. Structured self-administered questionnaires will be used to collect data on demographic characteristics of the participants, knowledge and practice on hemodynamic measurements and, challenges using ABP, CVP transducers, Cardiac monitors and alarm settings. In addition, an observational checklist will be used to assess the practice on hemodynamic monitoring. Data obtained will be entered into the computer using statistical program for Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21.0 by the researcher
with the help of data analysis expert. The results will also be disseminated to the KNH research and programs department and the unit head.