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Edith A.M Tarimo Provision of care to hospitalized pediatric burn patients: **A qualitative study among nurses at Muhimbili National Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania** December 2019, BioMed Central Nursing Journal 18(1) DOI: 10.1186/s12912-019-0335-1

Abstract

Background: Background Burn injury is a significant problem in low and middle-income countries. Moreover, across regions children are more affected by burn injury than adults. The outcome of burn injury is greatly influenced by the quality of care patients receive. This care includes meeting nutritional needs, availability of resources such as dressing supplies, and skills among health care providers. This study describes factors that influence provision of nursing care to the hospitalized pediatric patients with burn injuries at Muhimbili National Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Methods. A descriptive qualitative study was conducted among registered nurses working in the Pediatric Burn Unit. Purposeful sampling was used to recruit the participants in the study. Five in-depth interviews were done and content analysis approach was used.

Results. The nurses in the study described how they provided nursing care to pediatric patients with burn injuries. They described the use of closed method wound dressing, as an essential skill that accelerated wound healing, decreased the risk of wound contamination, and the incidence of contractures. The nurses felt gratified when they saw patients who had sustained severe burn injury recover well and be discharged home. They appreciated the influence of teamwork in burn patients' recovery. However, the interviews revealed systematic deficiencies that hindered provision of quality care to patients with burn injuries. The flaws included: inadequate staffing resulting in increased workload among the nurses; a lack of standard skills in burn care among nurses; lack of access to water, which is the mainstay of infection prevention control, and lack of specimen collection equipment.

Conclusions. Findings in this study revealed both positive and negative factors which appear to influence care of burn patients. The positive factors (motivation) need to be maintained, and immediate actions should be taken to address the negative (hindering) factors. Large scale studies to quantify these results are deemed necessary, and public health measures are needed to prevent burn injuries in children.