INTRODUCTION
Neonatal jaundice is a foremost cause of hospitalization in the first week of life worldwide. If not properly managed, it may result in significant bilirubin-induced morbidity and mortality. High neonatal mortality is a reflection of very poor neonatal care. Hence a specialist should be able to take up leadership role in neonatal care to prevent high mortality and morbidity rate. The study was carried out to determine the knowledge and practice regarding phototherapy management among nurses.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM
A descriptive study to assess the knowledge and practice regarding phototherapy management among nurses working in pediatric and maternity wards in selected hospitals at Kerala

OBJECTIVES
Objectives of the study are to,
- assess the knowledge and practice of nurses working in pediatric and maternity wards regarding phototherapy management
- find the correlation between knowledge and practice score regarding phototherapy management

ASSUMPTIONS
Nurses working in pediatric and maternity ward deals with new born receiving photo therapy and may have some knowledge about phototherapy management.
- Participants will provide truthful information.
- Study can be completed within the prescribed time period

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION
Knowledge
Ability of nurses to recall and give correct response to items regarding phototherapy as measured by structured knowledge questionnaire.

Practice
Nurses skill in managing babies under phototherapy admitted in pediatric and maternity wards measured by Observational checklist.

Nurse
Those who completed either ANM, GNM, B. Sc nursing and working in pediatric or maternity wards  regarding phototherapy management within the past 6 months. A structured knowledge questionnaire with 40 items was constructed. The various aspects included knowledge regarding Blood, Bilirubin, Phototherapy management. The Observational checklist consisted of 16 items and scores were assigned as 1 or 0 for practice of yes or no respectively.

Content validity was obtained from one pediatrician and four experts from the field of nursing. There was 100% agreement on all items. No items were deleted or replace. The reliability of the Structured Knowledge Questionnaire was done by split half method which was r=0.8, indicating the tool was reliable. The reliability of the Observational Checklist was established by inter-rater method which was 0.9, indicating that the tool was reliable.

The study was conducted after obtaining the formal permission from the authorities. The purpose of the study was explained and informed consent was obtained. Confidentiality was assured to all the samples. Pretest was conducted to assess the knowledge and practice of nurses regarding phototherapy management by using Structured Knowledge Questionnaire and observational checklist respectively. The investigator didn’t have any problem during the data collection process.

RESULTS
The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and the study findings are organized under following sections

Section 1 : Description of demographic variables of staff nurses.

Table 1- Frequency and percentage distribution of samples
(n=40)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic characteristics</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Age (in years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. 22-27</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>85.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 26-33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.  )34</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Male</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Female</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table 1 shows that majority of the samples 34 (85%) were in the age group of 22 – 27yrs, 40 (100%) of the sample were females. 22 (55%) of sample belonged to GNM and 32 (80%) of them are having experience between 1 -5 years and 32 (80%) of them having experience between 1 -5 years in NICU and 35 (87.5%) of them did not attend any programme on phototherapy management within 6 months.

There was a weak positive correlation between knowledge and practice scores.

**REFERENCES**


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**Section 2**: Knowledge and practice of staff nurses regarding phototherapy management

**Table 2**: Mean and mean percentage of knowledge and practice of sample regarding phototherapy management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge score</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Mean percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practice score</td>
<td>10.65</td>
<td>66.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table 2 shows that the mean pretest knowledge score was 19.1 and mean percentage was 47.75 and the mean practice score was 10.65 and mean percentage was 66.56.

**Section 3**: Correlation between knowledge and practice score of staff nurses regarding phototherapy management

**Table 3**: Correlation between knowledge and practice score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and practice</th>
<th>Correlation co-efficient</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>.234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table 3 shows that there was a weak positive correlation between knowledge and practice scores.

**Summary**

Pediatric nurses have challenging role in providing nursing care. The nurses get limited time to upgrade their knowledge and practice and this result in possible gap in integration of knowledge into practice. The study findings revealed that there was a weak positive correlation between knowledge and practice and this finding is supported by following descriptive study to assess the knowledge practice gap of pediatric nurses working at a tertiary care hospital in Karachi, Pakistan. The gaps between knowledge and practice, as perceived by the participants, were categorized into five major categories: medication (34%), skills (28.3%), knowledge (13.36%), handling of code blue and intubations (12.6%), and operating medical devices (11.58%). The study concluded that there were gaps related to psychomotor skills, clinical knowledge that nurses perform in pediatric settings including the skills

**CONCLUSION**

The study concluded that

- Highest percentage 34 (85%) of the samples were in the age group of 22 – 27yrs, 40(100%) of the sample were females. 22(55%) of