

Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN): A Single-Center Analysis of Trauma Nurses Knowledge Gaps

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ABSTRACT

Background: Trauma is a global cause of death and disability, and trauma systems are not well developed in low- and middle-income countries. Training of nurses in trauma care is of utmost importance to improve the organization and delivery of trauma care.

Objective: This study aimed to identify common knowledge gaps and develop study aids to improve nurses' performance taking the Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) course.

Methods: This is a descriptive, single-center study of the multiple-choice final examinations of the ATCN course conducted over 1 year in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh, Level I trauma center. The questions missed by candidates were compiled, and the wrong options were tabulated. The most commonly missed questions were identified, and the most commonly marked wrong option was analyzed vis-a-vis the correct answer. Each error was classified into either a theoretical error or a practice-based error.

Results: Ninety-six nurses attended 6 courses from June 2019 to June 2020. Of the theoretical-based questions, the top 3 categories of most missed questions were geriatric trauma ($n = 13$; 81.2%), massive transfusion ($n = 35$; 72.9%), and traumatic brain injury ($n = 35$; 72.9%). Of the practice-based questions, the top 3 categories of most missed questions were dislocated extremity management ($n = 54$; 79.4%), basic airway ($n = 31$; 64.5%), and shock management ($n = 30$; 62.5%).

Conclusions: Periodic identification and categorization of the ATCN course examination's most frequent knowledge gaps allow instructors to develop teaching aids to enhance instructor teaching and improve trauma nurses' knowledge.

Key Words

Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses, Advanced Trauma Life Support, ATCN, ATLS, Continuing medical education, Curriculum, Educational measurement, Program evaluation, Trauma training

Road trauma has emerged as a global cause of death and disability (World Health Organization, 2020). India has the dubious distinction of maximum road traffic deaths globally, trending upward from 1997 to 2017 (Dandona et al., 2020). Millions more suffer the nonfatal sequelae of injury caused by lasting mental and physical disabilities. In addition, trauma care and trauma systems are underdeveloped in low- and middle-income countries like India (Radjou, Mahajan, & Baliga,

2015). Thus, there exists an urgent need for improved trauma systems of care globally.

Effective in-hospital care is an important pillar of an effective trauma system (Moore, Lavoie, Bourgeois, & Lapointe, 2015). Specialized medical and nursing personnel training is paramount to minimize preventable trauma deaths (Azam, Devasthale, Kumar, Sarkar, & Rattan, 2020). Trauma training courses such as Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) developed by the American College of Surgeons (ACS, n.d.) and Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) developed by the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN, n.d.) promote systematic, organized assessment and intervention for trauma resuscitation and have been promulgated worldwide. While ATLS has been studied extensively (Abu-Zidan, 2016; Jayaraman, Sethi, Chinnock, & Wong, 2014; Mobily et al., 2015; Mohammad, Branicki, & Abu-Zidan, 2014), ATCN has been not.

OBJECTIVE

This study aimed to identify common knowledge gaps and develop study aids to improve nurses' performance taking the ATCN course.

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