

HOW DO SPANISH NURSES ASSESS PRESSURE ULCERS RISK?

Pedro L. Pancorbo-Hidalgo¹, Francisco P. Garcia-Fernandez⁴,
J. Javier Soldevilla-Agreda², Teresa Segovia-Gomez³, M. Carmen Rodríguez-Torres⁴, Isabel M. Lopez-Medina¹

¹University of Jaén, Department of Nursing, Jaén, Spain, ²Hospital of San Pedro, Logroño, Spain, ³Hospital Puerta de Hierro, Madrid, Spain, ⁴University Hospital of Jaén, Jaén, Spain

Aim: A) To determine which are the current Spanish nurses' practices to assess the risk for pressure ulcers (PU) development. B) To determine which risk assessment scales (RAS) are used by nurses.

Methods: An 11-items self-administered questionnaire was used to carry out a survey with a purposive sample of PU expert nurses. The sample was formed by 150 nurses that attended the 3rd Pressure Ulcers Commissions National Meeting in Spain (2007).

Results: 106 valid questionnaires were obtained (response rate: 70.6%). The surveyed nurses were 43.4 years old and had 20.1 years of experience, as average. They worked in hospital (38.7%), in community health centres (39.6%) and in nursing homes (13.2%). An 85% of the surveyed nurses stated to assess PU risk generally or always after admission or in the first visit of the patients; most of them (65.1%) used a RAS. Nutrition, mobility and physical condition were the risk factors often assessed. The RAS more frequently used are: Braden (38.7%), Norton (35.8%), Norton modified (4.7%), Cubbin-Jackson (4.7%) and EMINA (3.8%). Most of the nurses (86.8%) value the use of a RAS as not difficult. Preventive measures are assigned according to the score of the RAS by 56.6% of the nurses (always) and by 32.1% (generally).

Conclusions: Assessment of patients' PU risk is a widespread practice by expert nurses. The use of a RAS has increased, but still a number of nurses assess the risk using clinical judgment only. The Braden scale is the most used one by expert nurses in Spain.