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ABSTRACT

Physical restraints have been most commonly used in geriatric care setting in Hong Kong. However, reports also revealed that inappropriate use of physical restraint can lead to physiological and psychological ill effects. Therefore, healthcare professionals especially those who initiate the decision to apply the restraint need to be knowledgeable about the associated risks with their use. Typically, nursing staff initiates the decision to restrain a patient. Nurses often use restraints to "protect" themselves. They do not question the use of this 'routine' practice or recognize the potential negative outcomes associated with this practice. Further exploration is needed in this area because of the loss of patient autonomy and many other deleterious effects that can occur when older adults are restrained. The main objectives of this quantitative research study were to explore knowledge, attitude and practice of geriatric nurses towards the use of physical restraints and to examine their relationship with whose demographic characteristics. And this study was conducted to determine whether nursing personnel understand and have knowledge regarding using physical restraint. It was a quantitative descriptive survey. The study population focused on full-time geriatric nurses in Hong Kong. Convenience sample recruited from different geriatric setting in the Ruttonjee Hospital. Data were collected used a modified Janelli's questionnaire titled "Questionnaire of Physical Restraints" and analyzed by using descriptive statistical method and inferential statistical method with the aid of "Statistical Package for Social Science" -version 11. The findings of the study had important implications for nurse education, manpower planning, and policy making on restraint of geriatric patients.