

# Effect of nursing teaching program on knowledge and self-management behaviors for patients with essential hypertension

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## Abstract

**Background:** Essential hypertension is the most common cardiovascular disease (CVD), affecting about one billion individuals worldwide.

**Aim of the study:** was to evaluate the effect of nursing teaching program on knowledge and self-management behaviors for patients with essential hypertension. Study design; quasi-experimental research design was utilized to conduct this study.

**Setting:** The study was conducted in the internal medicine department and outpatient clinics at Assiut University Hospital.

**Sample:** Sixty adult patients of both sexes divided equally into 2 groups study and control group (thirty for each). Tools; four tools were used for data collection; Patients, assessment sheet, Hypertension Knowledge-Level Scale (HK-LS), Hypertension Self-Management Behavior Questionnaire (HSMBQ) and Nursing Teaching Program. Results; the majority of the study and control groups were female (83.3%, 66.7%), married (80.0%, 86.7%), illiterate (66.7%, 60.0), and house wives (83.3%, 63.3%).

**Conclusion:** Nursing teaching program was effective in improving patients' knowledge and self-management behaviors. Recommendations; educational program should be planned and offered to patients on regular basis. Simple booklets should be available for patients to provide them with simple explanation about the disease.

**Keywords:** Essential Hypertension; Nursing Teaching Program.

## 1. Introduction

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a group of diseases that involve the heart or blood vessels. CVD includes coronary artery diseases (CAD) such as angina and myocardial infarction (Wikipedia, 2016). CVDs are the number one cause of death globally. About 17.5 million people died from CVDs in 2012, representing 31% of all global deaths, 7.4 million of these deaths were due to coronary heart disease (CHD) and 6.7 million were due to stroke (World Health Organization, 2016).

Hypertension (HTN) is a very important risk factors contributing to the CVD burden, as it is a significant contributor to CVD related morbidity and mortality (Babu and Grace, 2015). HTN, also known as high blood pressure (BP), affects millions of people. High blood pressure is defined as BP  $\geq$ 140/90 millimeters of mercury (mmHg) (Bell et al., 2015). Hypertension remains one of the most important preventable contributors to disease and death. Abundant evidence from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) has shown benefit of antihypertensive drug treatment in reducing important health outcomes in persons with HTN (James et al., 2014 and Baushi, 2015). Hypertension (HTN) is divided into two main categories: essential (primary; idiopathic) and secondary (O'Sullivan et al., 2014 and Ciccone, 2015). Essential HTN is an elevated blood pressure of undetermined cause (Bolívar, 2013 and Mangena et al., 2016). More

than 90% of all hypertensive persons are reported to have essential hypertension (Ghosh et al., 2013 and Liao et al., 2014).

Secondary hypertension is defined as increased systemic blood pressure (BP) due to an identifiable cause (Rimoldi et al., 2013). It represents 5-10% of hypertensive cases (Conn, 2013 and Alp et al., 2014).

Essential hypertension is the most common cardiovascular disease (CVD), affecting about one billion individual worldwide (Li et al., 2014). The primary causes of essential hypertension include heredity, environment, habits, and dietary history (Dalai et al., 2014).

A patient with severe hypertension may experience a variety of symptoms secondary to the effects on blood vessels in the various organs and tissues or to the increased workload of the heart. These secondary symptoms include fatigue, dizziness, palpitations, Angina, and dyspnea. In the past, symptoms of hypertension were thought to include headache and nosebleeds (Lewis et al., 2014).

Self-management of chronic illness is that people participate effectively in managing their own health care on an ongoing basis. Optimal self management requires that the person understands the illness and manages their care, including taking medications and participating in decision-making with their health providers regarding their illness. Additionally, people must manage the impact of the chronic illness on their daily life, maintain their general health and avoid risk factors for other illnesses, for example, eating a healthy diet and participating in regular exercise (Gallagher et al., 2008).

HTN self-management behaviors including medication adherence, self-blood pressure monitoring, and lifestyle modifications involving diet, exercise, and tobacco are critical components of recommended hypertension treatment and have been associated with significant improvements in hypertension control (Flynn et al., 2013). Self-management education increases self care knowledge about hypertension, compliance with healthcare appointments and self-care behaviors, decreased healthcare use and improves adherence to medication and exercise in nursing home residents or community-dwelling older adults with hypertension (Mersal and Mersal, 2015).

### 1.1. Aim of the study

The aim of study was to evaluate the effect of nursing teaching program on knowledge and self-management behaviors for patients with essential hypertension.

## 2. Patients and method

### 2.1. Research design

Quasi-experimental research design was utilized to conduct this study.

### 2.2. Setting

The study was conducted in the internal medicine department and outpatient clinics at Assiut University Hospital.

### 2.3. Patients

60 adult patients, the age between (18-65) years divided equally into 2 groups; study and control groups (thirty for each group) with a medical diagnosis of essential hypertension, both sexes (male and female), oriented, and able to provide oral consent.

### 2.4. Tools of the study

Tool I: Patients' assessment sheet

It was developed and utilized by the researcher based on literature review to assess patients with essential hypertension. This tool consists of the following two parts:-

Part (1): Socio demographic data for the patients as (name, age, sex, level of education, marital status, and employment).

Part (2): Medical data including: vital signs, symptoms of hypertension, family history of HTN, duration of illness, smoking, and obesity or overweight.

Tool II: Hypertension Knowledge-Level Scale (HK-LS) (Pr / Post 6 weeks):

(Erkoc et al., 2012) developed it. This questionnaire sheet was used to measure the exact knowledge of patient's pre and post implementation of the nursing teaching program.

It is a self-report questionnaire consisting of 22 items with sub-dimensions consisting of the definition of hypertension (2 items), medical treatment (4 items), drug compliance (4 items), lifestyle (5 items), diet (2 items), and complications (5) items.

Scoring system:

The total score was (22 grades), these scores were converted into a percent score, the results of patient were classified into two categories (<50%) was unsatisfactory knowledge, and ( $\geq 50$ ) was satisfactory level of knowledge.

Tool III: - Hypertension Self-management Behavior Questionnaire (HSMBQ) (Pr / Post 6 weeks):

Akhter, 2010, developed it. It consists of 40 items addressing different aspects of self-management for illness. These include: self-integration (13 items); self-regulation (9 items); interaction with health professionals and significant others (9 items); self-monitoring (4 items); and adherence to recommended regimen (5 items). It has five levels for the questions; 1= never (I have never performed

the behavior), 2= rarely, 3=sometimes, 4= always, and N/A = not applicable. Scoring system:

According to range of total scores, which lie between (0 – 160), patient were classified as: positive behavior and negative behavior. Positive behavior if their total score was  $\geq 50$  % and negative behavior if their total score was <50%.

Tool IV: - Nursing Teaching Program

This tool was developed by the researcher in simple Arabic language based on literature review, researcher experience, and opinion of the medical and nursing expertise to provide the patient with the necessary information and instructions about essential hypertension. It was applied by the researcher, it covered and consisted of the following:-

- 1) Definition and types of blood pressure?
- 2) Definition, risk factors, signs and symptoms, and complications of essential hypertension.
- 3) Life style modifications (weight loss, adoption of dietary approaches to stop hypertension diet, increase physical activity, reduce dietary salt intake, reducing stress, and smoking cessation).
- 4) Low blood pressure (definition, signs and symptoms, and how to manage these symptoms).

### 2.5. Methods

- An official permission was obtained from the head of medical department and outpatient clinics.
- Data was collected in the internal medicine department and outpatient clinics at Assiut University Hospital during the period from January 2017 to September 2017.
- The study tools and nursing teaching program were formulated after review of the literature.
- The content validity was done by 5 expertises in medical & nursing field.
- Patient's agreement for voluntary participation was obtained after the purpose and nature of the study were explained.
- Data were assured confidentiality and anonymity and were collected using the pre-mentioned study tools.
- A Pilot study was conducted on 6 patients (10%) to examine the feasibility of the study and clarity of the tools. Those patients who were involved in the pilot study were included in the main study.
- The researcher met with each patient individually, oral agreement for voluntary participation in the study was taken from the patients after the study, and its aims were explained.
- For both groups tool I, the researcher filled II and III.
- For the study group patients the researcher explained the nursing teaching program in 5 sessions, the duration of each session was about 30 minute, including 5 minutes for discussion and feedback.

### 2.6. Program sessions

- The researcher in the first session explained to the patient simplified data about definition, types, classifications, readings, risk factors and complications of essential hypertension.
- Second session included simplified instructions to help reduce blood pressure such as: weight reduction, healthy diet and salt reduction in diet.
- Third session: physical activity and exercise, and ways to reduce stress such as deep breathing exercise and meditation.
- Fourth session: instructions about smoking cessation, symptoms of high blood pressure that require going to hospital, and instructions regarding medication.
- Fifth session: information about the symptoms of warning signs for hypertensive patients, symptoms and causes of hypotension, and what must be done when feeling symptoms of hypotension.
- Each session ended by a summary of its content and feedback from the patients through discussion and asking questions,

for the study group tool (II) used immediately to assess patient's knowledge, and each patient in the study group obtained a copy of the nursing teaching program booklet in simple Arabic language.

- Evaluation was carried out through introducing tool (II) and tool (III) for all the studied sample to distinguish between control and study group and between the initial assessment of the studied group and their assessment at the time of follow up 6 weeks after application of the nursing teaching program.

### 3. Ethical considerations

Research proposal was approved from ethical committee in the faculty of nursing, there was no risk for study subjects during application of the research, the study followed common ethical principles in clinical research, and oral consent was obtained from patients or guidance who were willing to participate in the study, after explaining the nature and purpose of the study, confidentiality and anonymity were assured, study subject had the right to refuse to participate and/or withdraw from the study without any rational at any time, and study subject privacy was considered during collection of data.

**Table 1:** Personal Characteristics of Patients in the Study and Control Group (N= 60)

Items	Control group (n=30)		Study group (n=30)		P value
	N.	%	N.	%	
1) Gender:					
• Male	10	33.3	5	16.7	0.116 ns
• Female	20	66.7	25	83.3	
2) Age:					
• 18 – 45	4	13.3	4	13.3	1.000 ns
• 46 – 55	11	36.7	12	40.0	
• 56 – 65	15	50.0	14	46.7	
3) Marital status:					
• Single	1	3.3	2	6.7	0.75 ns
• Married	26	86.7	24	80.0	
• Divorced	0	0.0	0	0.0	
• Widowed	3	10.0	4	13.3	
4) Level of education:					
• University	2	6.7	2	6.7	0.216 ns
• Secondary education	6	20.0	1	3.3	
• Basic education	4	13.3	5	16.7	
• Read and write	0	00.0	2	6.7	
• Illiterate	18	60.0	20	66.7	
5) Occupation :					
• Employee	6	20.0	1	3.3	0.133 ns
• Unemployed	2	6.7	3	10.0	
• Retired	3	10.0	1	3.3	
• House wife	19	63.3	25	83.3	

### 4. Statistical design

Data entry was done using compatible personal computer by investigator. The statistical analysis was done using SPSS- statistical software package Excel for figures. The content of each tool was analyzed, categorized and then coded by the investigator. Data were presented using descriptive statistics in the form of frequencies and percentages for qualitative variables, and means and standard deviations for quantitative variables. P-value considered statistically significant when P value < 0.05.

### 5. Results

Table (1): This table reveals that, the majority (83.3%) of the study group and about two thirds (66.7%) of the control group were female. Regarding age half (50%) of the control group and more than two fifths (46.7%) of the study group their age range between 56 -

65 years old. Looking at marital status; the highest percentage in both groups were married (86.7% and 80%) respectively. In addition it was found that the highest percentages in both groups were illiterate and house wives. There was no statistically significant difference between the study and control groups as regard socio-demographic characteristics.

Table (2): the above table mentions that, there was a statistically significant difference between the study and control group as regard hypertension definition, drug compliance and complications in post implementing the nursing teaching program.

Table (3): this table shows that, there was a statistically significant difference between the study and control group regarding hypertension self - management behaviors except self - integration in post implementing nursing teaching program.

Table (4): This table reported that, there was statistically a significant difference as regard total knowledge and self management behavior scores between the study and control group post implementing the nursing teaching program.

**Table 2:** Comparison between the Study and Control Group Regarding their Knowledge Pre and 6 Weeks Post Implementing the Nursing

Items	Pre				P value	Post				P value
	Control group		Study group			Control group		Study group		
	N.	%	N.	%		N.	%	N.	%	
1) Definition:										
• Correct	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.000 ns	0	0.0	11	36.6	0.001**
• Incorrect	2	6.7	3	10.0		2	6.7	2	6.7	
• Don't know	28	93.3	27	90.0		28	93.3	17	56.7	
2) Medical management:										
• Correct	18	60.0	17	56.7	0.496 ns	19	63.4	16	53.4	0.159
• Incorrect	10	33.3	10	33.3		10	33.3	13	43.3	
• Don't know	2	6.7	3	10.0		1	3.3	1	3.3	

3) Drug compliance:											
• Correct	11	36.6	12	40	0.648 ns	12	40.0	1	3.3	0.000 ***	
• Incorrect	14	46.7	16	53.3		15	50.0	28	93.4		
• Don't know	5	16.7	2	6.7		3	10.0	1	3.3		
4) Lifestyle:											
• Correct	13	43.3	13	43.3	0.157 ns	13	43.3	17	56.7	0.063	
• Incorrect	6	20.0	4	13.4		9	30.0	11	36.6		
• Don't know	11	36.6	13	43.3		8	26.7	2	6.7		
5) Diet:											
• Correct	13	43.3	14	46.7	0.851 ns	14	46.7	18	60.0	0.091	
• Incorrect	14	46.7	13	43.3		13	43.3	12	40.0		
• Don't know	3	10.0	3	10.0		3	10.0	0	0.0		
6) Complications:											
• Correct	15	50.0	15	50.0	0.562 ns	17	56.7	28	93.4	0.007**	
• Incorrect	4	13.4	2	6.7		3	10.0	1	3.3		
• Don't know	11	36.6	13	43.3		10	33.3	1	3.3		

**Table 3:** Comparison between the Study and Control Group Regarding their Hypertension Self - Management Behaviors Pre and 6 Weeks Post Implementing the Nursing Teaching Program (N= 60)

Items	Pre		Study group		P value	Post		Study group		P value
	Control group N.	%	N.	%		Control group N.	%	N.	%	
1) Self –integration:										
Never	10	33.3	9	30.0	0.208 ns	8	26.7	4	13.4	0.12
Rarely	7	23.3	10	33.3		8	26.7	1	3.3	
Sometimes	8	26.7	9	30.0		9	30.0	16	53.3	
Always	5	16.7	2	6.7		5	16.6	9	30.0	
2) Self – regulation										
Never	3	10.0	2	6.7	0.098 ns	3	10.0	1	3.3	0.051*
Rarely	14	46.7	18	60.0		14	46.7	6	20.0	
Sometimes	7	23.3	9	30.0		8	26.7	14	46.7	
Always	6	20.0	1	3.3		5	16.6	9	30.0	
3) Interaction with health professionals:										
Never	6	20.0	8	26.7	0.181 ns	0	0.0	6	20.0	0.014*
Rarely	11	36.6	13	43.3		0	0.0	8	26.7	
Sometimes	9	30.0	8	26.7		21	70.0	11	36.6	
Always	4	13.4	1	3.3		9	30.0	5	16.7	
4) Self –monitoring:										
Never	1	3.3	1	3.3	0.372 ns	1	3.3	0	0.0	0.001**
Rarely	14	46.7	19	63.4		14	46.7	8	26.7	
Sometimes	13	43.3	9	30.0		12	40.0	13	43.3	
Always	2	6.7	1	3.3		3	10.0	9	30.0	
5) Adherence to recommended regimen:										
Never	1	3.3	0	0	0.211 ns	2	6.7	0	0.0	0.00***
Rarely	14	46.7	17	56.7		9	30.0	0	0.0	
Sometimes	8	26.7	12	40.0		8	26.7	14	46.7	
Always	7	23.3	1	3.3		11	36.6	16	53.3	

**Table 4:** Total Percentage of Patients, Knowledge and Self-Management Behaviors for Both Groups About Hypertension (N= 6)

Variables	Control sample (n=30)				P-value	Study sample (n=30)				P-value
	Pre		Post			Pre		Post		
	N.	%	N.	%		N.	%	N.	%	
I- Patients' knowledge:-										
Satisfactory	15	50.0	19	63.3	0.13 ns	12	40.0	30	100.0	0.00**
Unsatisfactory	15	50.0	11	36.7		18	60.0	0	0.0	
Total	30	100.0	30	100.0		30	100.0	30	100.0	
II- Patients' self-management behavior:-										
Positive behavior	13	43.3	14	46.7	0.500 ns	13	43.3	30	100.0	0.00**
Negative behavior	17	56.7	16	53.3		17	56.7	0	0.0	

## 6. Discussion

Essential hypertension is a major cause of cardiovascular morbidity (Clark et al., 2010). It is a predisposing risk factor for stroke, myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, arterial aneurysm, and the leading cause of chronic renal failure. Approximately 90% to 95% of hypertension, affecting >1 billion adults worldwide, is the essential hypertension subtype (Wang et al., 2013).

The effective management of hypertension requires an individual to be knowledgeable about the disease, adhere to prescribed medications, and have the confidence to execute the behaviors necessary to manage the disease (Francois, 2015). Well-designed educational interventions with active participation of the patients are necessary for increasing HTN knowledge, self-monitoring, and control (Beigi et al., 2014).

In the present study, the incidence of female sex was more than male sex which is consistent with (Grant, 2013) who revealed that more than three quarters of the studied patients were female and

also disagree with (Patil et al., 2015) who stated that more than half of the sample were male.

In this study, findings regarding age clarified that the incidence of hypertension was higher in age group 56 – 65 years. This result is in line with (Sherlock et al., 2014) who reported that hypertension is most prevalent in patients 55- 64 years and also disagree with (Duboz et al., 2016) who reported that more than half of the participants were aged < 40 years.

As regard marital status of the studied patients, the present study results revealed that most patient were married. In the same line (Eshah and Al-daken, 2015) found that the majority of the patients were married.

Concerning level of education and occupation; the current study showed that the majority of patient were illiterate and house wives. This results supported by (Awoke et al., 2012) who reported that most participants were house wives and without formal education. The present study mentioned that, there was a statistically significant difference between the study and control group after implementing the nursing teaching program as regard knowledge level of patients about hypertension. In the same line, (Jarelnape et al., 2016) reported that health education program was effective in improving patient's knowledge.

This study reported that, there was a statistically significant difference between the study and control group after implementing the nursing teaching program as regard self management behaviors about hypertension. This result agree with (Rujiwatthanakorn et al., 2011) who reported that self management program was effective in enhancing subjects' self-management regarding hypertension.

## 7. Conclusion

The results of the present study concluded that; there was a statistically significant difference in patients' knowledge and self management behaviors after implementing the nursing teaching program. Also, there was a significant relation between level of knowledge and self management behaviors.

## 8. Recommendations

For patients:-

- A continuous educational program should be planned and offered to patients on regular basis in medical department and outpatient clinics.
- Increase patients' awareness about the importance of follow up to avoid and prevent any complications through utilizing the mass media (radio and television) and health classes in different health agencies.
- Provide each patient with a written instruction booklet in simple Arabic language contains many colored pictures.

For nurses:-

Periodical assessment of nurses' knowledge and practice in relation to bundle of care of patients with hypertension. Also, nurses should always update themselves with current information regarding hypertension.

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