The Utilisation of Orthopaedic Nurses’ Assessment Skills- Do They Improve Patient Outcomes?

Sue Stewart MN (Ortho), RN, BN
Lecturer-Nursing
And the answer is?

http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu
Well? Firstly, let’s take a closer look at the evidence

- Recognition of a change in a patient’s health status
  - Nursing assessment defined as

- How do we improve the process for patient assessment?
  - Clinician assessment knowledge
  - Resources
  - Clinical leadership
  - Executive endorsement

- Incorporating EBP
  - As a profession, do we value advanced learning?
  - Do we view it as critical to practice?
  - To what extent are we still task-focused
The registered nurse spends more direct time with the patient

Expectations:

• RN’s in the orthopaedic surgical unit have advanced clinical knowledge and skills
  • to identifying and implementing best practice interventions associated with any patient problems

• Diversify and expand the traditional definition of the nurses role
  • Increased post –graduate nursing education
  • Confidence and expert knowledge
  • Accepting of nurses working beyond the traditional role
Dependent upon variables

- Autonomy
- Accountability
- Appropriate attitude
- Current knowledge
- Skilful clinical practice
- Transparency
- Factors/barriers - Staffing levels (skill mix)
- Regulatory requirements
New and improved surgical procedures requiring an altered focus on nursing assessment
VTE affects patient outcomes

### Annual Incidence: VTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptomatic DVT</th>
<th>Symptomatic non-fatal PE</th>
<th>Fatal PE detected after autopsy</th>
<th>VTE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160 per 100,000</td>
<td>20 per 100,000</td>
<td>50 per 100,000</td>
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In 2008, estimated there were over 14,000 cases of VTE in Australia

What is our perception of knowledge in relation to VTE

Virchow’s Triad

Changes in blood coagulability

Changes in vessel wall

Changes in blood flow
Where to from here?
And the answer is!!!
References


