

ABSTRACT

The study aimed at exploring the maternal views in pain treatment in the newborn unit (NBU), Nakuru referral Hospital. The study was a cross-sectional survey using a semi-structured questionnaire. The study was conducted in the NBU of Nakuru referral Hospital located in Nakuru Town, the administrative center of Nakuru County. The sample size for the study was 108 mothers of neonates admitted to the NBU. Data were collected using a researcher-administered questionnaire. Data were summarized using descriptive statistics. Mean, standard deviation (SD) and range were computed for continuous variables while frequencies were used for categorical variables. Chi-square test was used to check for significant relationship between categorical variables. Independent samples t-test was used to compare means for continuous variables. For all statistical tests, a p -value $< .05$ was considered to be statistically significant. Majority of mothers who were interviewed (95.1%, $n = 97/102$) reported that their neonates felt pain while hospitalized in the neonatal unit. From this study most mothers believe that their neonates experience pain varying from mild to severe pain while admitted in the NBU. Majority of mothers have expressed their wish to be totally involved during painful procedures during the hospitalization period. In order to manage this pain appropriately there is need to improve the clinical practice by creating more awareness HCPs on the importance of involving mothers in planning and managing procedural pain in neonates. The use Non pharmacological methods of pain management should be encouraged and utilized in the resource limited set ups especially in neonatal units.

Keywords: *Maternal/parental views, neonate, pain treatment, newborn unit (NBU)*