Training Pain Resource Nurses: Changes in Their Knowledge and Attitudes

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**Key Points...**

- The 32-hour training program improved pain knowledge and attitudes in nurses.
- The results supported validity of the assessment tools.
- Continuing education in pain management should be offered in other settings.


Research on the effectiveness of educational programs on pain management has been mixed. Camp-Sorrell and O’Sullivan (1991) found that education about pain management did not result in changes in nurses’ behavior. McCaffery and Ferrell (1995, 1997) and Dahlman, Dykes, and Elander (1999) found that pain management education did have a positive impact on behavior. McCaffery and Ferrell (1999) found that although nurses have become more informed about pain assessment, they still lack the basic knowledge to manage pain appropriately. Gunnarsdottir, Donovan, and Ward (2003) called for research to determine which components of educational interventions are needed to improve pain management by nurses.

**Research Objectives**

The objective of the current study was to determine the effect of an intensive, weeklong pain management course on the knowledge and attitudes of unit-based nurses who were...