

USE OF PAIN SCALE FOR PRE-OPERATIVE PAIN EDUCATION

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Background: A patient knowledge deficit regarding post-operative pain and pain evaluation techniques had been recognized. In the pre-operative setting, post-operative pain and the pain scale were not routinely discussed. Education about post-operative pain and evaluation techniques could improve the overall peri-operative experience for patients.

Objectives:

1. Introduce use of the Wong-Baker FACES pain rating scale in pre-op.
2. Increase patient knowledge concerning the evaluation and treatment of post-operative pain.
3. Increase nursing compliance with pre-operative pain education.
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Implementation: Supervisor approved the purchase of 8X10 frames to hang the Wong-Baker FACES pain rating scale in the pre-operative rooms. The pain scale was placed where it is easily accessible by nurses and at eye level with the patients on the stretcher. Staff education included location of the framed pain scale and the rationale for ease of use during pain education. Nurses were encouraged to discuss the framed pain scale and pain issues with all patients pre-operatively.

Statement of Successful Practice: Literature review states that, early patient education leads to improved patient outcomes. Nursing compliance with pre-operative pain teaching has increased since providing the easily accessible framed pain scale.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: This is a creative teaching method to help nurses incorporate pain education in the fast paced peri-operative environment. It facilitates a smoother transition for the patient through the peri-operative stages.