Reviewer’s report

Title: HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS’ PAIN EXPERIENCES BEFORE AND AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF A NURSE-BASED PAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: A SEPARATE SAMPLE PRE AND POST STUDY

Version: 0 Date: 15 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Lucyna Tomaszek

Reviewer's report:

The article aroused my interest. I see a lot of effort made by Ethiopian nurses to improve the quality of care for a patient suffering from pain in various hospital wards. Here are some considerations regarding this study:

Methods
[1] The authors need to justify the sample size of 782 (is it pre-calculated or not?). They also need to describe the sampling process.
[2] The authors wrote - line 142-152: "To measure the patient pain experience, we used a tool consisting of 19 items adapted from the BPI… and the APS-POQ-R… Eleven items used to measure pain interferences (six items for physical functions and four items for emotional functions) were adopted from the APS-POQ-R" - six items for physical functions and four items for emotional functions total eighteen items. I didn't find the item regarding duration of pain on the Brief Pain Inventory (Short Form). It isn't clear what type of pain treatment information was recorded.
[3] The authors need to define what they mean by “last 24 h” assessing the severity of pain. This is important, as there is an association between pain intensity and the day of surgery (Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jopan.2018.11.011).
[4] Please explain what is meant by acute and chronic pain in table 1 (give diagnostic criteria).
[5] Explain how missing data was addressed.
[6] Explain how the statistical significance of intergroup differences in the distributions of categorical variables was verified.

Results
[1] Please include a flow diagram that explains the process of the study.
[2] The authors can also add information about duration of hospitalization, types of surgery or the region operated upon. Borys et al. (BMC Anesthesiology 2018, 18:83) found that variables such as operated region and type of surgical department influence the severity of pain.
[3] Line 220-221: "The results of all three surveys show that patients generally had moderate to severe pain" - What percent of patients assessed the pain as moderate and as severe?
[4] Line 218-220: the pain assessment method has previously been described in Method.
[5] Line 225-227: "In the third survey, the sample mean pain intensity was reduced by 27.6% at its worst, 23.8% at its least, 25.5% at its average and current pain by 29.3% compared with Survey 1" - based on what data this was calculated?
Abstract, Introduction, Discussion and References

[1] I think that keywords "postoperative pain, pain management, education, nursing care, inpatients" represent the main content of this article.

[2] An overall concern is that many of the references are more than 5 years or even 10 years old. They need to be updated. There is more recent literature to support many of your statements/positions.

[3] The reasonableness of writing the full name of the organization and its abbreviation, or the name of the pain assessment scale and its abbreviation etc. should be considered (lines: 50, 97,98, 104, 122, 260-263) especially given that they are used in the text once or twice.

Kind regards,

Lucyna Tomaszek

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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