ASIAN CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL NURSES (ACNN)



2nd NEWSLETTER

Dear members,
This is the second newsletter for this year.

A summary of ACNN YNN activities for the past 6 months of 2024.

On behalf of ACNN, I wish to thank Prof. Dilshod Mamadaliev and Prof. Yi Guo for their contribution to this newsletter.

With support from Prof. Yoko Kato and other neurosurgeons I hope will inspire more neuro nurses to contribute to future ACNN newsletter.

With best regards,

Yee Yit Cheng Honorary Chair, ACNN

The Impact of Neurosurgery Nurses in Global Neurosurgical Care

Prof. Dilshod Mamadaliev,
Neurosurgeon,
Secretary of the Uzbekistan Association of Neurosurgeons
Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Center of
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In the intricate and high-stakes field of neurosurgery, nurses play a pivotal role in ensuring optimal patient outcomes. Their contributions extend far beyond routine medical care, encompassing patient advocacy, education, emotional support, and meticulous clinical skills. As the demand for neurosurgical interventions grows globally, the role of neurosurgery nurses becomes increasingly critical in delivering comprehensive and effective care.

The Role of Neurosurgery Nurses

1. Preoperative Care and Patient Education

Neurosurgery nurses are integral to the preoperative phase, where their responsibilities include preparing patients for surgery, both physically and psychologically. They provide detailed explanations about the procedure, potential risks, and postoperative expectations, alleviating patient anxiety and ensuring informed consent. This education empowers patients and their families, fostering a sense of trust and collaboration in the care process.

2. Intraoperative Support

During surgery, neurosurgery nurses assist the surgical team with precision and efficiency. They are responsible for maintaining a sterile environment, managing surgical instruments, and monitoring patient vitals. Their expertise ensures that the surgical procedure proceeds smoothly, reducing the risk of complications and enhancing the overall safety and success of the operation.



3. Postoperative Care and Rehabilitation

Postoperative care is critical in neurosurgery, where recovery can be complex and prolonged. Neurosurgery nurses provide vigilant monitoring of neurological status, pain management, wound care, and the prevention of complications such as infections or blood clots. They also play a key role in rehabilitation, helping patients regain function and adapt to any neurological deficits through physical therapy and other interventions.



Specialized Roles in Neurotrauma and Stroke Care

1. Neurotrauma Care

Neurotrauma, which includes traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and spinal cord injuries, requires immediate and highly specialized care. Neurosurgery nurses are often the first responders in emergency settings, where their swift assessment and intervention are crucial.

• Emergency Response and Stabilization: Neurosurgery nurses are trained to quickly assess the severity of neurotrauma and prioritize interventions that stabilize the patient. This includes maintaining airway, breathing, and circulation (ABCs), administering medications, and preparing the patient for emergency surgery if necessary



- Continuous Monitoring: In the critical hours following neurotrauma, continuous monitoring is essential to detect changes in neurological status. Neurosurgery nurses utilize advanced monitoring equipment to track intracranial pressure, cerebral perfusion pressure, and other vital signs, ensuring timely interventions to prevent secondary injuries.
- Multidisciplinary Coordination: Neurotrauma care often involves a multidisciplinary team, including neurosurgeons, neurologists, intensivists, and rehabilitation specialists. Neurosurgery nurses coordinate care among these professionals, ensuring a seamless transition between acute care, surgery, and rehabilitation phases.

2. Stroke Care

Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, and timely, expert care is crucial for minimizing its impact. Neurosurgery nurses play a vital role in the acute management and long-term care of stroke patients.

- Acute Stroke Management: In the event of a stroke, neurosurgery nurses are critical in the acute phase, where rapid assessment and treatment can save lives. They administer thrombolytic therapy for ischemic strokes, manage blood pressure, and monitor for complications such as hemorrhage or swelling.
- Post-Stroke Rehabilitation: Stroke rehabilitation begins immediately after the acute phase. Neurosurgery nurses facilitate early mobilization, physical therapy, and speech therapy, which are essential for recovery. They also provide education on lifestyle changes and medication adherence to prevent recurrent strokes

• Patient and Family Support: Stroke can be a life-altering event, and neurosurgery nurses provide emotional support to patients and their families. They offer guidance on coping strategies, community resources, and long-term care planning.





The Global Impact of Neurosurgery Nurses in Critical Care

1. Addressing the Neurosurgical Workforce Shortage

Globally, there is a significant shortage of neurosurgeons, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Neurosurgery nurses help bridge this gap by providing essential care and support, enabling neurosurgeons to focus on complex surgical tasks. Their presence allows for a more efficient allocation of resources and expands the capacity to treat neurosurgical conditions.

2.Enhancing Access to Care in LMICs

In many LMICs, access to neurosurgical care is limited by a lack of infrastructure, resources, and trained professionals. Neurosurgery nurses are often on the front lines, providing essential care in challenging environments. They participate in outreach programs, training initiatives, and telemedicine projects, extending the reach of neurosurgical services to underserved populations.

3. Improving Patient Outcomes and Quality of Care

The comprehensive care provided by neurosurgery nurses has a direct impact on patient outcomes. Their expertise in managing preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative phases of care reduces complications, shortens hospital stays, and improves recovery rates. By focusing on holistic care, including emotional and psychological support, neurosurgery nurses enhance the overall patient experience and quality of life.

4. Advancing the Field through Research and Education

Neurosurgery nurses contribute to the advancement of the field through participation in clinical research and continuous education. They are involved in studies that explore new techniques, treatments, and care protocols, contributing to the evidence base that drives neurosurgical practice. Additionally, they play a crucial role in educating future generations of nurses and healthcare professionals, ensuring the sustainability and growth of neurosurgical care worldwide.

Conclusion

The impact of neurosurgery nurses in global neurosurgical care cannot be overstated. Their multifaceted role encompasses clinical expertise, patient advocacy, education, and emotional support, all of which are essential for optimal patient outcomes. In neurotrauma and stroke care, their specialized skills are critical in emergency response, acute management, and long-term rehabilitation. As the field of neurosurgery continues to evolve and expand, the contributions of neurosurgery nurses will remain indispensable, ensuring that patients around the world receive the highest standard of care.

SHARING THOUGHTS

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- More than 3 months ago, before Matron Yee Yit Cheng, Honorary chair of Asian Congress of Neurological Nurses (ACNN) and Vietnamese neurosurgical nurses Ms. Phung Thi Hanh and Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Lam visited our hospital, I knew nothing about the situation of neurosurgery nursing care outside of China.
- Our hospital's history is not long, it is founded in 2014, the department of neurosurgery was established at that time. The hospital received a generous donation from the Formosa Plastics Group and Taiwan Chang Gung Memorial Hospital during its construction. Management philosophy is much more open and more internationalization than traditional hospital. At the same time, the hospital is an affiliated teaching hospital of Tsinghua University, which is the best university in China, Therefore, Beijing Tsinghua Changgung Hospital is devoted to providing continuous high-quality healthcare service, educating outstanding physicians, innovating clinical research, and promoting hospital internationalization. Although our team is young and inexperienced, they are energetic and open-minded.

- For neurosurgeons, we are fortunate to have nurses who help us keep patients and families coping with the dilemmas of their disease, fighting side by side to help them through the difficult period of treatment and recovery, whether on the ward, in the Neuro ICU or in the operating room. In addition to helping patients and their families, our nurses also serve as a bridge and link between doctors and patients.
- When we had an in-depth exchange of work and life with Matron Yee, Ms. Lam, and Ms. Hanh, we found that Matron Yee has been treating neurosurgical nursing as a mission, not just a career. She is dedicated to building the ACNN network to improve the nursing levels in Asian area. Although many difficulties and obstacles has been encountered, with the support of Prof. Yoko Kato and the joint efforts of nurses such as Ms. Hanh and Ms. Lam, ACNN has made great progresses. Our center is also in the development stage like ACNN. We hope to grow together with ACNN and contribute our effort to it. As Dr. Douglas Kondziolka, editor-in-chief of Neurosurgery Publications mentioned in "The editor's message" of last International Nurses Day, "you can't spell neurosurgery without n-u-r-s-e."[1].

Reference

1. Kondziolka, Douglas MD, MSc; Editor-in-Chief, Neurosurgery Publications. A Reflection on Nursing in Neurosurgery. Neurosurgery 92(5):p 893, May 2023.

ACNN & YNN

UPCOMING & ACTIVITES

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- 2nd ACNS Red River Bootcamp & ACNN symposium in conjunction with the VNS Scientific meeting: 6-7th Dec 2024, Ho Chi Minh City
- 2nd International Haemorrhagic Stroke Conference (IHSC) and Asian Congress of Neurosurgical Nurses (ACNN) Education Course: 19-20 October 2024, Kuala Lumpur
- 14th ACNS Congress & ACNN Nurse Session:18-20 Dec 2024, Cairo (physical meeting)

12th ACNN WEBINAR-18th Feb 2024



13th ACNN WEBINAR-13th March 2024



1st ACNN YNN WEBINAR-6th June 2024



14th ACNN WEBINAR-30th June 2024

