

# **Assessment of knowledge, attitude and practice of neonatal nurses about phototherapy in the selected hospitals in Kurdistan- Iraq**

## *Abstract*

**Background:** Neonatal Jaundice (NNJ) is the most common health hazards problem it requires medical attention in new-borns. Neonatal Phototherapy is a non-invasive easily available therapy has been widely used for the treatment of neonatal jaundice. **Aims:** The aim of this study was to determine the level of knowledge, attitude and practice of neonatal nurses about phototherapy and relationship between neonatal nurses knowledge, attitude and practice with socio-demographic background.

**Method:** This study based on cross-sectional descriptive was conducted from 25september 2013 to 20-May-2014, at selected hospitals in Kurdistan- Iraq. Census method was used for recruiting samples (n=110). The instruments for data collection was questionnaires which it has (4) parts which included: (9 items about socio-demographic background, 19 items were constructed to determine the level of knowledge, 4 items were constructed to determine the level of attitude and 15 items were constructed to determine the level of practice of neonatal nurses about phototherapy. Data were analyzed through the application of descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation) and inferential statistical analysis (correlation coefficient, chi-square and multiple regressions).

**Results:** The highest percentages 81.8% of the respondents were female, and more than half 50.9% of them aged between 20 - 30. The present study found 70% of the neonatal nurses had moderate knowledge about phototherapy; 90.9% of them had positive attitude toward phototherapy and 63.6% of participants performed moderate practice for babies under phototherapy. And this study showed that there was a highly significant association between neonatal nurses' KAP with their years of experience as nurse, years of experience as a neonatal nurse, and previous training at p-value less than (0.05).

**Conclusion:** The present study determined moderate of knowledge and practice of neonatal nurses about the phototherapy, and this finding showed that training , work -shop for all level of education and continuing education programs are very important for increasing knowledge, attitude, and practice on phototherapy among neonatal nurses. **Key word:** Neonatal nurse, phototherapy, knowledge, attitude, and practice.