The practice, knowledge and attitudes of mothers with children under-5 age at fever management

Gülnaz Karatay, Nazan Gürrşslan Baş and Mahmut Karatay
Tunceli University, Turkey

Objective: The aim of this study was to evaluate the practice, knowledge and attitudes of mothers with children under-5 age at fever management.

Material & Methods: This descriptive study was performed in a state hospital in Eastern Turkey between September-February 2016. The sample consisted of 180 mothers with under-5 age children who admitted the child clinics with any reason and accepted participate the study. Data were collected with a questionnaire prepared by researcher. The questionnaire was applied face to face interviewing techniques and was taken about 10-15 minutes. Data were analyzed in computer based SPSS program by using numbers, percentiles and chi-square tests.

Results: In the study, the average age of mothers’ was 30.03±5.25 and 42.8% of them had high school graduates, 86.7% of them had the nuclear family type, 85.0% of them had social security and 70.6% of them assessed income status as middle. The average age of children was 3.12±1.41. The mothers stated that 88.3% of children had fewer problems at least once in last year. Also 87.2% of mothers stated that they have special thermometer for their children at home, 96.7% of them stated that they can measure the fever of children with thermometer and 70.7% of them stated that “fever is 38 degrees or above of body temperature”. There were statistically significant difference between mothers’ employment status, family type, social security, family income and to keep a thermometer at home (p<0.05). Also, there were statistically significant difference between mother’s education, having social security and the ability to measure of children body temperature (p<0.05).

Conclusions: According to the findings, it was seen that the mothers with low education and income levels haven't got adequate knowledge and appropriate approach about fever management in home condition

Biography
I am an associate professor in Public Health Nursing, in the Tunceli University Health High School in Turkey. I completed my master and doctorate program Hacettepe University Faculty of Health Science in Ankara, Turkey. My academic background and work experience as a Nurse-Researcher has enabled me to develop a range of skills. Accordingly I have been in Prato Hospital in Italy-Florence for 3 months and US-Wisconsin Madison University for 3 months. My research focuses on motivational interviewing for smoking cessation, improving cognitive function of the elderly, prevention of substance use in adolescent period and women health.

Notes: