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Malignant Hyperthermia Preparedness For Labor and Delivery Nurses

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Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is a rare, inherited, disorder of skeletal muscle triggered by general anesthesia (GA) in susceptible individuals. Operating room (OR) nurses receive extensive training in MH crisis management. On labor and delivery (L&D) units, nurses are instructed in the management of MH crisis without the full range of MH knowledge. This paper discusses the new training necessary for L&D nurses to be prepared to manage a MH crisis. The goal of this study was to develop an online training module that would prepare L&D nurses to manage a MH crisis. The online training is a simulation-based training to enhance nursing students’ therapeutic communication skills. The online MH training module was developed through a partnership between the University of Washington, Seattle; OhioHealth University/Healthstream.com; and the Malignant Hyperthermia AssociaCon (MHAA). The MHAA is a nonproft organization dedicated to increasing awareness of MH and providing education in MH management. The program includes education on signs and symptoms of a MH crisis, location of the MH emergency cart, and appropriate medical personal response to this lethal, rare complication of general anesthesia. In addition, a simulation drill of a MH crisis that the L&D nurses can participate in was included. The success of the education was assessed by comparing scores of pre and posttests. The current MH training utilized at a medium size central Ohio trauma center could be improved. Data obtained after participation in a MH educational training session and simulation drill illustrate that L&D nurses who participated in the session increased their knowledge regarding MH crisis management and are now better prepared for a MH crisis. In addition, data obtained from the post training assessment confirmed that participants in the program felt better informed about MH and their ability to manage a MH crisis.

References
Malignant Hyperthermia for RNs-CA525.AI, OhioHealthUniversity/Healthstream.com.