Objective

To evaluate the prevalence of chronic pain, and intradialytic pain in patient undergoing haemodialysis, as well as the effectiveness of analgesic therapy.

Methods

Cross-sectional, descriptive and observational study. A random sample consisting of 172 patients undergoing haemodialysis in two clinics in the region of Lisbon, Portugal. The Brief Pain Inventory, which analyses the influence of pain in a patient's life, was only applied to evaluate chronic pain [5]. The Visual Analogue Scale was used to assess the intradialytic pain. Tests were administered during dialysis sessions from May to June 2015. Categorical variables were expressed as percentages and continuous variables were expressed as mean standard deviations or medians. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Diaverum (N 1/2015).

Results

The sample consisted mostly of men (61.6%) of Portuguese nationality (80.7%), the mean age was 60 years (\pm 14.4), and patients were under haemodialysis treatment for 72.6 months (\pm 54.4). Chronic pain occurs in 54.1% of patients and intradialytic pain in 75%. The causes of pain were musculoskeletal (69.3%), associated to vascular access (19.3%) and other causes (11.4%). Chronic pain was most commonly located in the legs (43.2%), followed by back (21.6%) and vascular access (19.3), head (8%), arms (4.5%), abdomen (2.3%) and, lastly, chest (1.1%). The percentage of patients that took analgesics for chronic pain was much higher (62.0%), of these 87.8% are non-opiates, 10.2% weak opiates and 2% strong opiates. The other therapeutic interventions referred were: rest (24.1%), massage and relaxation (6.3%), cryotherapy (1.3%), exercise (1.3%), while 5.1% reported doing nothing. The effectiveness of the treatment was successful for chronic pain, in 62.6% of the patients, there was a relief felt of over 50%.

Conclusions

Pain of musculoskeletal origin is a frequent symptom in our sample. The pharmacological management of chronic pain is the most applied intervention.

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Keywords

Renal Insufficiency, Chronic, Renal Dialysis, Quality of life, Pain.

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Prevalence of musculoskeletal symptoms in nursing students

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Background

Musculoskeletal symptoms are the most common conditions in society, being indicated as one of the main factors of disability during the life cycle of an individual [1-2]. Students are exposed to the factors that can trigger these musculoskeletal symptoms [3], both during class periods and clinical teaching. Prevalence of musculoskeletal pain is higher in the cervical region among nursing students of 1st year and 2nd year, and lower back in nursing students of the 3rd and 4th years [4]. **Objective**

To determine the prevalence of musculoskeletal symptoms in nursing students.

Methods

Cross-sectional and descriptive study. One hundred and fifty-five (155) nursing students from two nursing schools in Lisbon participated in this study. The data collection instrument consisted on sociodemographic and health behaviour variables and the Nordic musculoskeletal questionnaire (NMQ). The NMQ consists of 27 binary choice questions (yes or no) [5]. The variables were expressed as percentages. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of two nursing's schools.

Results

83.23% of the sample are females, single (88.38%) and 32.26% are working students. 81.94% are non-smoking; 87.1% do not usually ingest alcoholic drinks; 65.81% use a backpack and 23.23% carry objects on their way to school. 49.03% spend between 2 and 4 hours on the computer and electronic devices and 42.58% spend more than 4 hours. 71% spend more than 4 hours seated during classes. 85.8% had no training prevention of musculoskeletal injuries. The prevalence of musculoskeletal symptoms by location of the aches, pain, discomfort and numbness were as following: 66.23% in the neck; 52.29% shoulders; 7.24% elbows; 39.47% wrists/hands; 20.53% upper back; 69.33% lower back; 15.33% hips/thighs, 32% knees and 22.82% ankles/feet.

Conclusions

The most frequent aches, pain, discomfort, numbness location are located on the neck, shoulders and lower back. The main causes related to musculoskeletal injuries are the transportation of weights, use of computer and electronic devices and to be seated for long periods of time. It is recommended the implementation of prevention strategies in order to reduce the occurrence of musculoskeletal injuries.

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Keywords

Nursing Students, Musculoskeletal Pain, Prevalence, Cross-Sectional Studies.

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Eating habits: determinants of Portuguese adolescents' choices

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