

Abstract:

Low-molecular-weight heparins (LMWHs) belong to standard drugs for prevention and treatment of thromboembolic disease. The use of LMWHs is clearly indicated in surgical disciplines. The nurse is responsible for proper technique and site of LMWHs administration. The author brings an overview of current knowledge in the field of LMWHs. Indications, contra-indications, dosing schemes and methods of administration are described in the theoretical section of the work. The aim of the empirical part of the work was to find out and to compare knowledge of LMWHs use in surgical nurses working in intensive care units (ICUs) and in standard wards (SWs). The acquisition of the data was based on questionnaire survey. One hundred nurses working in selected surgical departments in General Faculty Hospital in Prague during 4/2011-5/2011 period constituted experimental group, namely fifty ICUs nurses and fifty SWs nurses. The author found out that ICUs nurses have 3.79% better theoretical knowledge than SWs nurses. Furthermore, significant differences in knowledge in individual nurses were found out. Self-evaluation of nurses was incorrect in 52% of cases. Less than 25% of nurses knew proper site and method of administration of LMWHs.

Keywords: low-molecular-weight heparins – thromboembolic disease – dosing – administration method – administration technique – knowledge of nurses – self-evaluation of nurses