PHARMACOLOGY
KNOWLEDGE RETENTION
IN
PALLIATIVE CARE NURSES

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Acknowledgements

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Background

• Grampian Regional Palliative Care Team (GRPCT)

• Training Plan development

• 5000 Attendee’s over four years

• Evaluation

• Aim of Study day:
  – Improve pharmacology knowledge
  – Assess knowledge retention of participants
Methodology

• Format
• Development of Questionnaire
• Anonymity
• Data Collection
Study Days

- Participants
  - Div 1 Nurses
  - Div 2 Nurses (Medication endorsed)

- 334 attendances

- Areas of practice

- Voluntary participation

Grampians Regional PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM
grampianspalliativecare.com.au
Data Analysis

• Total attendances: 334
• Data excluded: 19
• Data for analysis: 315
• 6 week return: 36%
Findings

Pass rates

• Pre test: 23%
• Post test: 97%
• 6 week post test: 96%
Further Analysis

Sub analysis of four questions relating to:

- Nausea
- Pain
- Anxiolytics
Which anxiolytic agent has the shortest half life in hours?

A. Diazepam
   14-200 hours
B. Lorazepam
   8-24 hrs
C. Clonazepam
   19-60 hours
D. Midazolam
   2-3 hours
Which anxiolytic agent has the shortest half life in hours?

- Diazepam
- Lorazepam
- Clonazepam
- Midazolam

Pre, Post, 6 WK post
Questions

*Which of the following drugs is not suitable for continuous s.c. infusion?*

A. Metoclopramide  
B. Haloperidol  
C. Prochlorperazine  
D. Cyclizine
Which of the following drugs is not suitable for continuous s.c. infusion?

100 70 80 90
40 50 60
370 344
320
390
469

Cyclizine
Concerning haloperidol, which of the following statements is true?

A. s.c administration is more likely to lead to Parkinsonian side-effects than when given orally

B. Its long half-life means it can be given only once or twice daily

C. The usual anti-emetic doses cause significant sedation

D. Its use is contraindicated in renal failure
Concerning haloperidol, which of the following statements is true?
Questions

When changing a patient from twice-daily slow-release morphine to a fentanyl patch, when should the last dose of SR morphine be given?

A. Give last dose of SR morphine in the morning & apply patch in evening
B. Give last dose of SR morphine at the same time as applying patch
C. Apply patch in the morning then give last dose of SR morphine 12 hours later
D. Apply patch then give last dose of SR morphine 24 hours later
When changing a patient from twice-daily slow-release morphine to a fentanyl patch, when should the last dose of SR morphine be given?
Where to from here:
Medication Dementia in Nursing?
Series 2 Study Days
Questions