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**ASSESSING THE KNOWLEDGE OF OXYGEN THERAPY AMONG
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS WORKING IN THE NEONATAL
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT:QUESTIONNAIRE BASED SURVEY**

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Abstract:

Background: In a neonatal care setting, supplemental oxygen is a common medication. In newborns, almost all respiratory diseases are reversible. As a result, the primary goal is to keep the neonates from becoming hypoxic. The majority of infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) require oxygen support. Hypoxemia, increased labor of breathing, and hemodynamic instability are all indications for the use of oxygen in the NICU. Because oxygen therapy is commonly used in the NICU, any accident with the therapy can result in catastrophic consequences. One must remember and be familiar with O₂ therapy in order to avoid any cause or injury to the baby.

Objective: This study aims to assess the knowledge of health care professionals (HCPs) about the oxygen administration protocols and oxygen delivery devices used in NICU. and also the factors that influence the knowledge regarding oxygen administration in NICU.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional questionnaire-based survey which was conducted at Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Kasturba Hospital Manipal, from October 2021 – March 2022. All HCPs such as doctors, nurses, and respiratory therapists with the experience of ≥2 months were included in the study. The expert validated questionnaire regarding oxygen therapy was circulated to the HCPs via a google form. The knowledge level was assessed with multiple choice questions and the scores were graded accordingly.

Results: A sum of 81 healthcare professionals working in the neonatal intensive care unit took part in the study. Out of 81 participants, 16 (19.8%) were doctors, 30 (37.0%) were nurses, and 35 (43.2%) were respiratory therapists involved in this study. The response to the questionnaire by the participants during the survey were asked and was assessed for the knowledge level. 48.1% had good knowledge, 45.7% had moderate knowledge and 6.2% had poor knowledge. The overall study group had good level of knowledge on oxygen therapy.

Conclusion: The HCPs had better skill-based knowledge compared to the theoretical knowledge. Doctors and RTs have the same scores on knowledge compared to the