Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice

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Implementation of a Vestibular Disorder Screening Tool in an Urgent Care

Date: July 13, 2023
Time: 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Place: 106 Seton Hall

Abstract
Problem: Vestibular disorders disrupt everyday living and can cause reduced quality of life. Guidelines developed to screen for vestibular disorders are not efficient to use in the emergency department and are not utilized by some providers due to lack of confidence and training. Patients who present to the emergency department with vestibular disorder symptoms are often left undiagnosed, therefore leading to lack of referrals for vestibular therapy (VT).

Methods: A vestibular screening tool (VST) was introduced to a convivence sample of providers working in an urgent care setting. This quality improvement project analyzed quantitative descriptive data, both retrospective and prospective, comparing the number of VT referrals in patients with a vestibular disorder diagnosis. This project also compared provider confidence levels to diagnosis and refer patients with vestibular disorders.

Results: Comparison of the number of VT referrals made from the retrospective (n=121, 30.58%) and prospective (n=126, 34.92%) data suggest no significant relationship. There was a significant difference in the mean rank for provider confidence level from before and after the VST was introduced based on an alpha value of .05, U=838, z = -1.98, p = 0.047.

Implications for Practice: Introduction of a VST in an urgent care setting can increase provider confidence level in diagnosing patients with a vestibular disorder and referring to VT.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Susan Dean-Baar, PhD, RN, CENP, FAAN - Chairperson
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