

## Abstract

### **Barriers to implementing acute pain management in acute settings: A systematised review**

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**Background:** The pain of acute injury patients in acute settings is an issue that patients often report because acute pain assessment and management are not sufficient.

**Objective:** The review aimed to determine nurses' perspectives of the barriers to acute pain management in acute settings.

**Methodology:** The literature was searched using keywords and electronic medical databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL and Web of Science) from 2000-2018. The review included qualitative and mixed method studies that explored the perceptions and experiences in acute pain management of nurses who have worked in sub-acute settings, surgical units, emergency departments and adult ICUs. This review excluded non-English literature, theses, and literature about paediatric, cancer and out-patient department nurses. The research quality was appraised using the 16-item quality assessment tool, and the thematic synthesis approach was used to analyse the data.

**Results:** Six themes were formulated from ten selected articles (nine qualitative studies and one mixed method study): (1) ineffective acute pain management, (2) lack of standards for acute pain management, (3) organisation-related barriers, (4) nurse and doctor-related barriers, (5) patient-related barriers, and (6) family-related barriers.

**Conclusion:** Nurses need to raise their awareness of the barriers to effective acute pain management. Moreover, healthcare organisations should develop standard acute pain guidelines and education training programmes to assist in decision-making, and encourage multidisciplinary collaboration. Consequently, the quality of acute pain management will improve, resulting in improved patients' outcomes and reduced secondary complications related to pain.

**Key Word:** Acute pain management, Barrier to acute pain management, Acute injury patient, Acute setting