

Patient Perspectives on the Role of Orthopedic Nurse Practitioners: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Abstract : Background: The inclusion of nurse practitioners (NPs) specializing in orthopedics holds promise for enhancing the quality of care for orthopedic patients. Understanding patients' perspectives on this role is crucial for evaluating the feasibility and acceptance of integrating NPs into orthopedic settings. This study aims to explore the receptiveness of orthopedic patients to treatment by orthopedic NPs and examines potential associations between patients' willingness to engage with NPs, their familiarity with the NP role, perceptions of nursing, and satisfaction with orthopedic nursing care. Methods: This cross-sectional study involved patients admitted to an orthopedic department at a central Israeli hospital between January and February 2023. Data was collected using a validated questionnaire consisting of five sections, reviewed by content experts. Statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS and included descriptive statistics, independent samples t-tests, Pearson correlations, and linear regression. Results: Participants in the study showed a moderate willingness to receive treatment from orthopedic NPs, with more than two-thirds expressing strong openness. Patients were generally receptive to NPs performing various clinical tasks, though there was less enthusiasm for NPs' involvement in medication management and preoperative evaluations. Positive attitudes towards nurses and familiarity with the NP role were significant predictors of patient receptiveness to NP treatment. Conclusion: Patient acceptance of orthopedic NPs varies across different aspects of care. While there is a general willingness to receive care from NPs, these nuanced preferences must be considered when implementing NPs in orthopedic settings. Awareness and positive perceptions of the NP role play crucial roles in shaping patients' willingness to engage with NPs.

Keywords : orthopedic nurse practitioners, patient receptiveness, perceptions of nursing, clinical tasks

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