

# NURSES' MANAGEMENT OF POSTOPERATIVE PAIN IN THAI CHILDREN: A HOLISTIC CASE STUDY RESEARCH

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**Key words:** postoperative pain, case study research

Pain management in postoperative children is a complex process that happens in a clinical unit. To provide an in-depth understanding of this process and pattern, it is essential to study a complete picture of nurses' pain management. Little is known how and why nurses manage postoperative pain in children as a holistic including interaction between nurses and other healthcare professionals or caregiver.

**AIM:** are to describe how and why nurses manage postoperative pain in children in the real-life context of pediatric surgical intensive care unit and pediatric surgical unit.

**METHODS:** This study uses the descriptive multiple-case (holistic) design. This case study research included six cases of nurse-respondents, two physicians, 20 children, and 13 caregivers. Data were collected from multiple sources of evidence: including observations, reviewing documents, interviewing nurses, physicians, and caregivers.

**RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS:** Three major themes were identified as nurses' activities for managing pain: decision making for analgesic administration; providing alternative care or non-pharmacological interventions; and participating with family members. Each theme describes both the process and patterns of nurses' management of postoperative pain. Algorithms of nurses' pain management are proposed to be a step by step guide for managing postoperative pain in children. Clinical practice guideline and educational program for pain management in postoperative children should be developed.

**Funding:** The Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council

**Source:** 24<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Congress Leading Change: Building Healthier

Nations: International Council of Nursing, Durban, South Africa, June 26 – July 4, 2009