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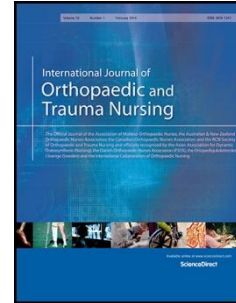
Author: Julie Gregory

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Title:

INITIAL TESTING OF A BEHAVIOURAL PAIN ASSESSMENT TOOL WITHIN TRAUMA UNITS

Author:

Julie Gregory RN, ONC, MSc (Pain Management), PhD

Nurse Lecturer,

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work,

Jean MacFarlane Building,

University of Manchester,

Oxford Road

Manchester.

M13 9PL

0161 306 7825

Julie.gregory@manchester.ac.uk

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Abstract: Pain is common in trauma patients, who may be older and also may have cognitive impairment leading to reduced communication about their pain. A number of observational pain assessment tools are available and have been found to have limited clinical usefulness. The Bolton Pain Assessment Tool (BPAT) was developed following a trial of three established tools and includes a section to involve family and/or close carers in the pain assessment process.

The aim of this paper is to present the findings of initial testing of BPAT.

BPAT was used and evaluated by clinical staff on four trauma units within the UK. 46 staff evaluations were completed, 98% indicated it was easy to use; it took between one to two minutes to complete by 69.5% and led to pain management interventions by 93.5% of the respondents. It was rated highly by the clinical staff, but the involvement of families and close carers in the assessment process was different at each unit, with one unit not involving the family/close carer. There remains the need for a simple and practical way of assessing pain. This initial testing of the clinical feasibility of BPAT suggests that it is easy to use and helps to identify pain, but further testing of its reliability and validity is required.

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