Improving perception of Pediatric Palliative Care

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INTRODUCTION

- With the advancement of modern medicine, the increased survival rates of children with severe, life-threatening diseases have led to a rise in demand for complex medical devices and advanced medical services due to resultant complex disabilities, highlighting the importance of pediatric palliative care(PPC).
- However, there still exists an overall lack of understanding and negative perceptions regarding PPC, which act as barriers to accessing palliative care services.

AIM

*Through this QI initiative, we aimed to objectively **assess** the perception status of PPC among internal staff and external individuals, and **promote** the vitalization of PPC services through perception improvement activities.*

METHOD

1. Perception improvement activities

- *First,* a PPC educational materials were developed by utilizing the National Cancer Center Korea's mobile education system called 'Hi-Chart' and were used to conduct promotional activities targeting patients and their caregivers, while internal staff were educated on the importance, principles, values, and latest guidelines of PPC.
- *Secondly,* A World Hospice & Palliative Care Day events were organized to stimulate interest among patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, healthcare workers, and the general public and to disseminate detailed information on PPC service.

2. Measures

- Pre-and post-improvement indicators were measured among internal staff and external participants through voluntary participation in a survey that consisted of 9 questions that measured perception, attitude, and understanding of PPC on a 1-5 Likert scale. In this survey, higher scores indicated higher levels of perception and positive attitude, while lower scores indicated higher levels of knowledge.

3. Analysis

- Statistical analysis were conducted using SPSS 25.0. Independent t-test was used to compare the perception, attitude, and understanding of PPC between internal staff and the external general public, and to assess changes in internal staff before and after quality improvement activities.

RESULTS

Figure 1. Means of perception, attitude, understanding of Pediatric Palliative Care

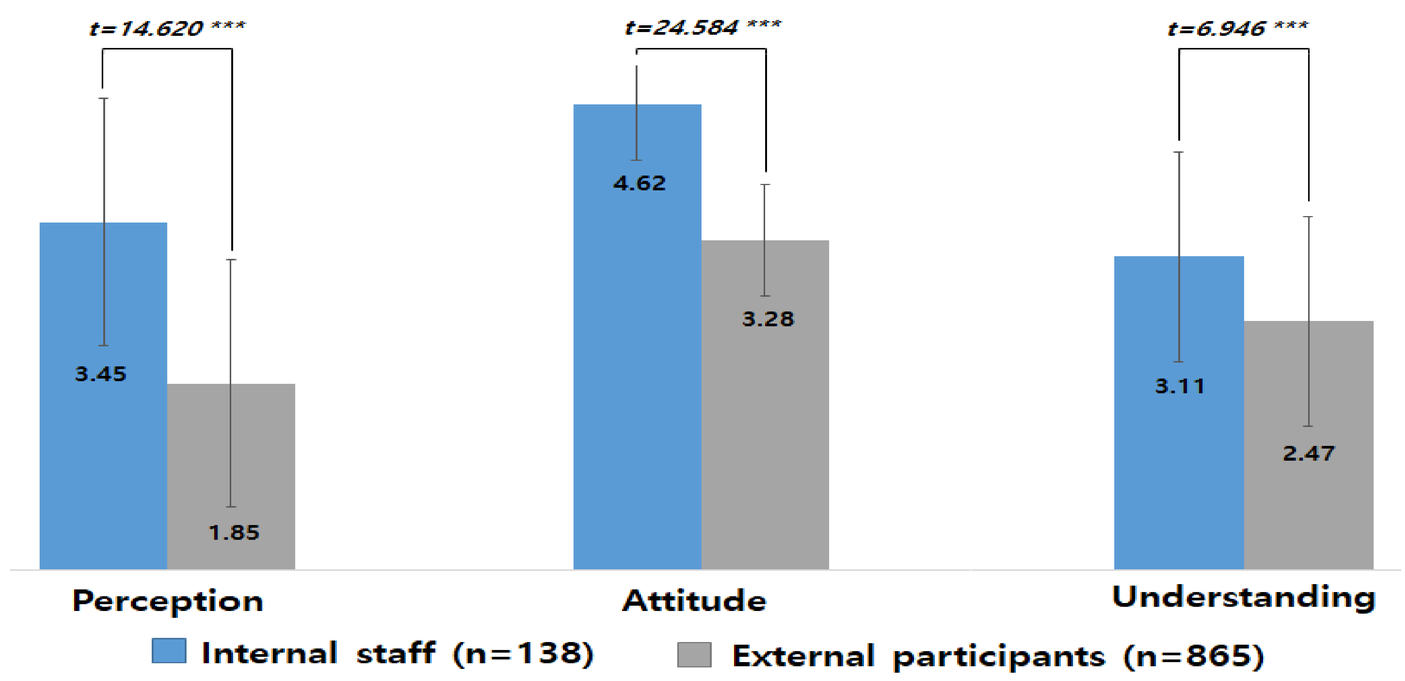


Figure 2. Means of perception, attitude, understanding of Pediatric Palliative Care following improvement activities through education

: Comparison with the survey results on **internal staff**

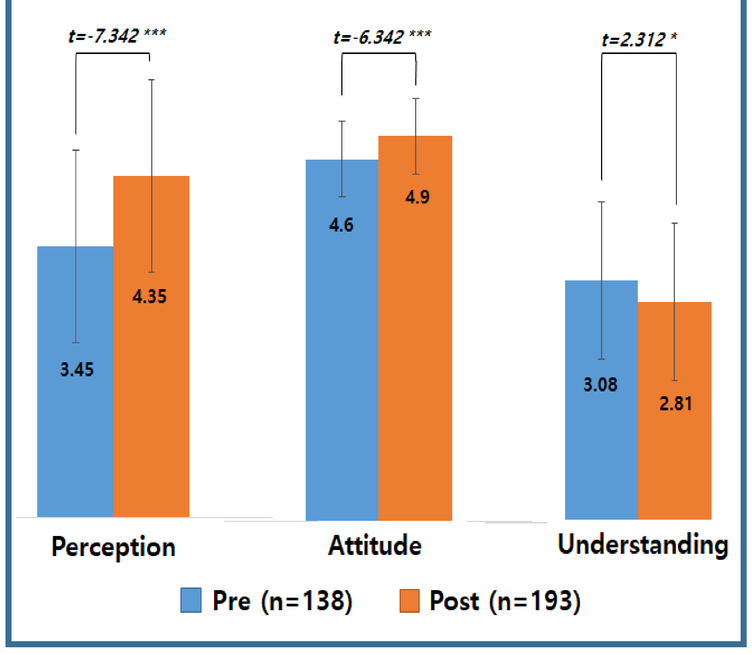
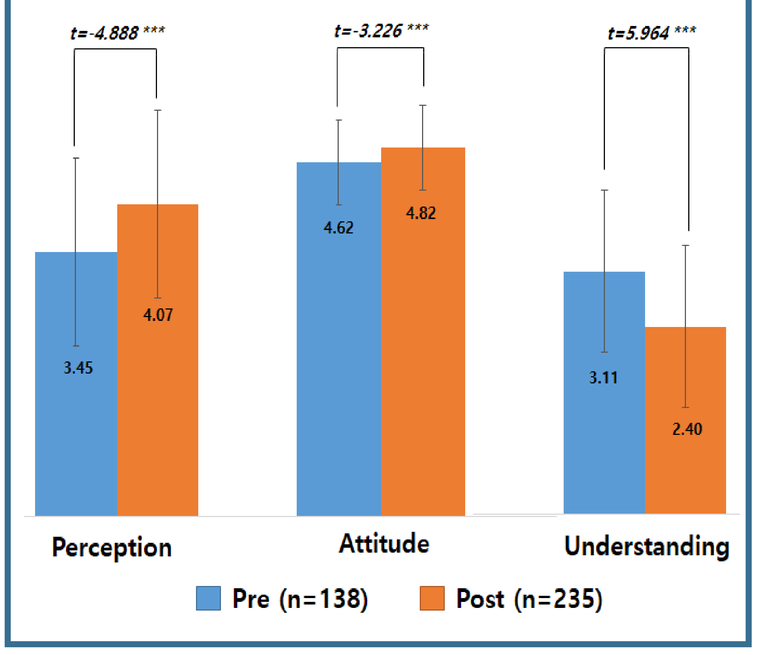


Figure3. Means of perception, attitude, understanding of Pediatric Palliative Care following improvement activities through World Hospice & Palliative Care Day events

: Comparison with the survey results on **internal staff**



CONCLUSIONS

- This QI initiative aimed to assess the awareness of PPC among internal staff and external individuals and improve their understanding to increase the utilization of PPC services for severe pediatric and adolescent patients.
- Considering the pre and post-indicators of improvement activities among hospital staff, it is believed that the understanding of PPC also improved among external participants following the perception improvement activities.
- In the future, tracking the changes in awareness levels of PPC among various groups and evaluating the effectiveness of education and promotional activities to identify areas for improvement will be necessary.

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