

Cardiac Imaging for Nursing

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Cardiac Imaging contributes to a better understanding of specialized clinical knowledge which can be the cornerstone of comprehensive nursing care but not all the nurses pay attention to the Cardiac Imaging because they are not familiar with it.

In 1962, the first Coronary Care Unit(CCU) was established in the Bethany Medical Hospital in Kansas, in the US. The nurses and physicians in that CCU discussed clinical questions and negotiated responsibilities. By the process, CCU nurses expanded their scope of practice, for example identifying cardiac arrhythmias, administering IV medications, and defibrillating the patients who had lethal ventricular fibrillation (Ann B. Harmric, Charlene M. Hanson, Mary Fran Tracy, Eileen T. O'Grady, 2014). Today I would recommend particular attention for the scope of not only integration of the informations from Cardiac Imaging but also learning the way of taking Cardiac Imaging, especially Echocardiography. For Echocardiography, there are many nurses called sonographers to take it under doctor's supervising. They can be also belong to nurse practitioners as CCU nurses in Bathany or Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS).

Unlike CT, MR, or PET, Echocardiography is operator dependent Cardiac Imaging in spite of international standard views for examination. So it is very important that examiners look upon with suspicion based on the understanding of cardiovascular anatomy and hemodynamics. For that reason, nurses in CCU are fully qualified both to integrate the information from Cardiac Imaging and to be a sonographer for Cardiac Imaging. In recent years, the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) opens the examination for Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS) in Seoul, Korea.

Adult basic Echocardiography shows regional wall motion abnormality of left ventricle(LV), valvular status, global LV systolic function(EF) and diastolic function(E/E' correlated with LV end diastolic pressure), right ventricular systolic pressure, and so on. According to the need, abnormal structures or defects can be evaluated. Not only diagnostic examination but also interventional or operational guiding Echocardiography is also very important to successful result.

Here is each patient that complains of chest pain, dyspnea, and loss of consciousness. The each complaint is related to coronary artery disease, valvular disease, and arrhythmia in this session's subject. In addition, you may enjoy the Cardiac Imaging, Echocardiography-guided percutaneous cardiac intervention.