

REVIEW

A Systematic Review of Master's Theses on Surgical Nursing Conducted in Northern Cyprus

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Abstract

This systematic review aims to analyze master's theses on surgical nursing, which were conducted in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus between 2010 and 2021. This study reviewed the master's theses on the databases of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and the universities in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which offered a master's degree in nursing. Using the keywords surgical nursing, nursing, and master's thesis, we identified 37 theses that met the inclusion criteria and classified these theses according to aim, sample, clinic, year of publication, the title of advisor, and the department of study. About 70.3% of the theses were conducted between 2016 and 2021, 59.7% were conducted on healthy individuals, 96% had a descriptive design, and 42.85% used scales to collect data. This systematic review found that the number of master's studies on surgical nursing significantly increased in the last decade. Nearly all theses had a descriptive design, and the majority of the studies were conducted on healthy participants.

Keywords: Master's thesis, nursing, nursing research, postgraduate, surgical nursing

Introduction

The evolution of the nursing discipline, which aims to provide healthcare services to people, has been influenced by various global developments. The nursing profession, which has faced various changes in terms of professional roles and functions, is a dynamic profession that has constantly evolved over time (Çamlica and Ethics, 2021).

Turkish Nurses Association (TNA) defined nursing as "a health discipline consisting of science and art responsible for planning, organizing, implementing, and evaluating nursing services and training individuals to conduct these services toward the aim of maintaining and developing the health and well-being of an individual, family, and society and healing them in case of an illness" (Hemşirelik Kanunu, 2021). On the other hand, Regulation on Nursing (no. 27515, dated March 8, 2010), prepared by the Ministry of Health of the Turkish Republic, stated that nursing services determine the health needs of individuals, families, and society and plan, implement, and evaluate patient care based on evidence and within the context of the nursing diagnosis process. The regulation underlined the importance of the diagnosis process and evidence-based care (Hemşirelik Kanunu, 2021).

Recent approaches to health services give more importance to patient safety, evidence-based interventions, and clinical results of patient care. Health professionals are expected to improve themselves to adapt to the dynamism in health services. Parallel to this, nursing education is required to be based on scientific evidence (Jasper, 2005; Saliye et al., 2010).

Undergraduate education in nursing includes 4600 hours of theoretical courses and clinical training for 4 years. Theoretical courses constitute at least one-third and clinical training half of the nursing education. The quality of nursing care depends on the quality of undergraduate education in nursing. Changes in health problems and service models brought the need for education to adapt to these changes. Hence, the graduate programs in nursing were opened (Akdemir et al., 2011).

Near East University was the first institution that initiated a master's program in nursing in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Currently, the universities of Near East, Eastern Mediterranean, Lefke Europe, Girne American, Cyprus International, and Cyprus Science provide master's education in nursing in TRNC. Additionally, Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean Universities offer PhD programs

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in nursing in TRNC. Specialist nurses have been educated in TRNC since the initiation of the undergraduate, master's, and PhD programs.

Master's programs in nursing help the nursing students to achieve the knowledge and skills necessary for PhD training. With the help of master's programs, nursing students can achieve the knowledge and skills required for a scientific field and implement, interpret, and share their knowledge within the context of ethical considerations and conduct scientific research (Ardahan et al., 2015; Erdil and Bayraktar, 2001; Kocaman G., 2003a; YÖK, 2021). PhD programs, on the other hand, help the students to conduct independent scientific research, critically evaluate scientific findings, use evidence-based information, and implement the findings based on theory and models (Ardahan et al., 2015; Boore, 1996). Developments in health sciences, accumulation of knowledge, and the changes in health problems and service models have brought the need to train health professionals by educating them to adapt to changing circumstances (Ardahan et al., 2015; Canales and Outlook, 2014). Within this context, health schools are expected to train health professionals, for identifying and solving the problems after revising the existing situation, and to provide education on the basics of nursing for the specialization of the nursing students. Surgical nursing as a field of the nursing discipline started with the treatment of injured people and developed treatment and healthcare processes as a consequence of scientific and technological advancements. Surgical nursing may be defined as a field of nursing that identifies the physical, psychological, and social needs of surgical patients to maintain and sustain their health and well-being, coordinates scientific evidence-based nursing interventions, and provides individualized care. Today, there is a considerable number of surgical nurses with master's and doctorate degrees (Aslan, 2009).

A systematic review of the master's theses on nursing may be useful in determining the changing tendencies in the field of nursing education. Due to this reason, this study reviewed the master's theses on surgical nursing, which were conducted in TRNC between 2010 and 2021. The findings of this study may direct future studies and contribute to the accumulation of professional knowledge.

Materials and Methods

The theses we analyzed were open to access. They've been selected by the researchers and analyzed using a checklist for inclusion criteria. Those that met the inclusion criteria are provided in the references.

Main Points

- It has been determined that number of postgraduate theses has increased in recent years.
- Nearly all theses had a descriptive design.
- The majority of the studies were conducted on healthy participants.
- Based on the findings of this review, we may suggest further studies on the preoperative and postoperative care of different patients receiving surgical care.

The theses were identified by using the database of the Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education in Turkey (YÖK) and the library databases of the universities in TRNC, which offer a master's degree in nursing, including Eastern Mediterranean, Near East, Lefke Europe, and International Cyprus universities. Using the keywords surgical nursing, nursing, postgraduate, nursing research, and master's thesis, we identified 45 master's theses in Turkish but only 37 theses met the inclusion criteria. The theses, which included the key words in their abstract or headings, were independently analyzed by the researchers. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses method was used for the methodological evaluation of the theses that met the inclusion criteria (Figure 1). The theses were analyzed using the criteria presented in Table 1, including the year of publication, aim, sample, research design, clinic, the title of advisor, and department of study. Number and percentage were used to analyze data.

Inclusion criteria includes (i) access to full text and (ii) conducted within the scope of surgical nursing.

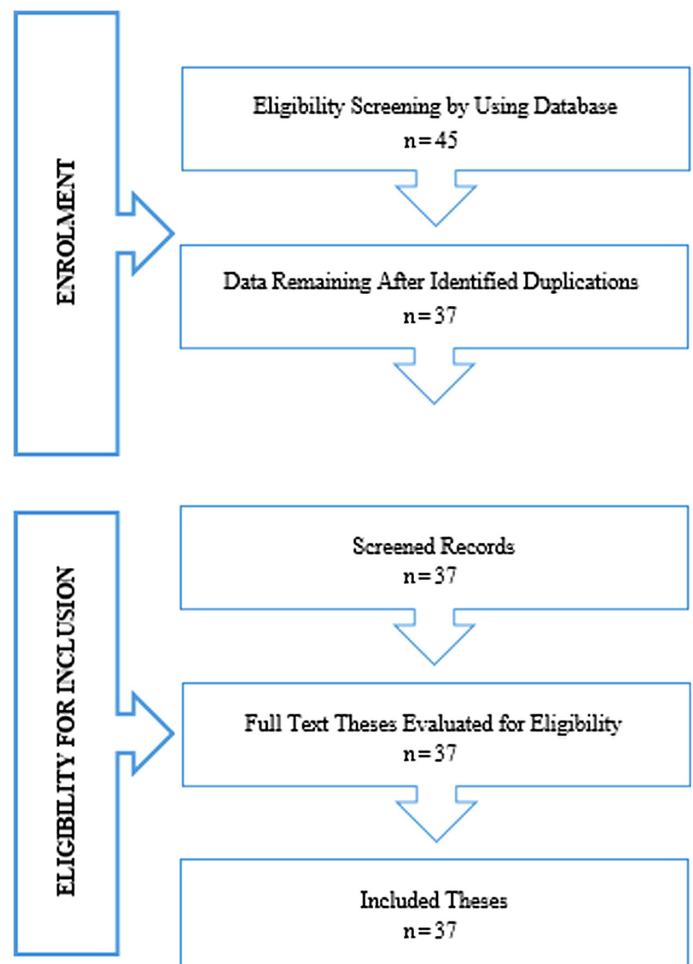


Figure 1.
PRISMA flowchart. PRISMA, Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses.

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Healthy women between 20–69 years of age (n = 375)	Healthy individuals in society	Descriptive	To determine the knowledge and applications concerning early diagnosis methods of breast cancer	49.6% of women knew the right age to start mammography. 43.9% of women did not want to have a mammogram.	Developing and distributing materials for early detection of breast cancer units and to increase the sensitivity of nurses on the subject have been proposed.	2010	Prof. Dr. Gynecology and Obstetrics Nursing	Not Published
Nurses (n = 151)	Surgical clinic	Descriptive	To evaluate knowledge and practice of nurses toward medical needle stick and sharp injuries	It was determined that the rate of injury to the nurses with a penetrating/cutting medical device was 68.21% and the injury was mostly caused by the injector needle (79.61%).	It has been suggested to develop in-service training programs, create a brochure or training booklet, and develop practice standards or protocols in clinics.	2010	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Coronary artery bypass graft surgery patients (n = 53)	Cardiovascular surgery clinic	Descriptive	To determine problems and self-care capability of coronary artery bypass graft patients after hospital discharge	It was determined that the mean self-care capability score of the patients was moderate (108.45 ± 17.035).	It is recommended to provide planned discharge training and counseling services.	2011	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Published
Elder patients with fractures (n = 47)	Orthopedics and traumatology clinic	Descriptive	To determine the risk factors of fractures and the level of awareness on preventing fractures	According to the findings, it was discovered that there is a low awareness among elder patients on the factors that lead to fractures and how to avoid occurrences of such fractures.	Evaluation of risk factors for fracture, planning and implementation of education about what should be done to prevent fractures are recommended.	2011	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Surgical patients (n = 110)	Surgical clinic	Descriptive	To identify the factors that affect sleeping patterns of patients in surgical clinic	The mean score of factors affecting sleep patterns of the patients was determined as 71.9 ± 18.82 . The factors causing the most insomnia are, respectively, pain (71.80%), environmental noises (40.90%), frequent going in and out of patient rooms (40.90%), and crowded patient rooms (37.30%).	It is recommended that the healthcare team plan interventions for treatment and care, taking into account the factors affecting the sleep patterns of patients.	2011	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published

(Continued)

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses (Continued)

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Patients undergoing surgical operation (n = 183)	Surgical services	Descriptive	To identify the anxiety level of patients before and after an operation	The State Anxiety Inventory (SAI) average total points of patients before the operation was 43.37 ± 5.35 and after the operation it was found be 43.54 ± 4.74 , whereas the Constant Anxiety Inventory (CAI) average total points of patients before the operation was 49.28 ± 7.05 and after the operation it was found to be 48.12 ± 6.46 .	It is recommended that nursing attempts might be provided to lessen the anxiety levels of patients before and after an operation period.	2011	Assistant Prof. Psychiatric Nursing	Not Published
Abdominal surgery patients (n = 67)	Surgical clinic	Descriptive	To determine the early period complications of abdominal surgery patients and the nursing practices for these complications	According to the results obtained from the research, pain, cough, nausea, difficulty in swallowing, constipation, gas in the intestine, and pain at the wound site were determined as the most common problems in the postoperative period.	It has been suggested to determine the appropriate nursing approaches for patients undergoing abdominal surgery and to investigate the reasons for not performing adequate nursing care practices.	2011	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Surgical team (n = 120)	Operating rooms of state hospitals and a private hospital	Descriptive	To determine views and practices of surgical team members on safe surgery	It was determined that a majority of 87.5% of the operating room team believed that the Safe Surgery Checklist (SSCL) contributed to patient safety. It was determined that a majority of the surgical team members responded to all of the items on the list.	It is recommended to increase the number of personnel to a sufficient level, to provide managerial support, to make regular trainings and job descriptions, to organize in-service training programs, and to ensure/require the participation of the team in these programs.	2015	Associate Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Laparoscopic cholecystectomy surgery patients (n = 78)	Surgical clinic	Descriptive	To determine the discharge information needs of laparoscopic cholecystectomy surgery patients and the role of nurses in discharge training	It was determined that 28.2% of the patients were not given information related to surgery prior to the surgery and that 83.3% of the patients were not given information about their diseases for emergency situations when it would be necessary to consult a physician after being discharged from the hospital.	It is proposed that training before discharge from the hospital should be made with a suitable plan for the individual characteristics and educational needs of the patients.	2015	Associate Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published

(Continued)

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses (Continued)

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Lumbar disk herniation patients (n = 68)	Surgical clinic	Descriptive	To determine the discharge information needs of lumbar disk herniation patients	It was observed that a great majority (94,12%) of the patients taken into the sampling and who had a lumbar disk herniation surgical operation received information about care at home after the lumbar disk herniation surgical operation.	It has been suggested that patients should be able to provide discharge training with the participation of all team members, discharge training should be carried out in a planned manner with different training methods and materials, and should be made a part of nursing practices.	2015	Associate Prof. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Outpatient surgery patients (n = 160)	Outpatient surgery clinic of a private hospital	Descriptive	To determine the difficulties experienced at home by patients after outpatient surgery	In the first 24 hours of the patients, 75% had pain, 46.25% had fatigue/weakness, 29.35% had nausea/vomiting, 20.63% had discharge/bleeding at the wound site, 51% of the patients found the discharge training sufficient, and 82% wanted written training materials.	It is recommended that the scope of discharge training specific to each clinic should be increased and written training material should be provided according to the difficulties experienced by the patients at home.	2015	Associate Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Nurses (n = 170)	All clinics of a private hospital	Descriptive	To determine the knowledge and practices of nurses on surgical pain management	According to the statements of nurses, 91,2% had knowledge about pain management, 50% received training on pain management, 23% followed publications, but 96% did not know the (WHO) Step Treatment System. It was determined that 67,7% of them did not use a pain assessment scale.	It can be suggested that the issues related to postoperative pain management should be addressed more heavily in in-service training programs, the importance of pain should be comprehended, and the participation of nurses in courses, congresses or certificate programs on postoperative pain management should be increased.	2016	Associate Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published

(Continued)

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses (Continued)

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Orthopedic surgery patients (n = 56)	Orthopedics and traumatology clinic of a private hospital	Experimental	To determine the effects of peppermint oil inhalation on postoperative nausea and vomiting	There was significant difference between experimental and control groups for existence of nausea at 6–12 hours, 12–24 hours, and 24–48 hours postoperatively. In peppermint oil inhalation group (experimental), existence of nausea was lower than the control group.	It is recommended to use pharmacological methods before pharmacological methods in patients who are likely to develop postoperative nausea and vomiting and to apply pharmacological methods as needed.	2016	Associate Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Nurses (n = 76)	All clinics of a private hospital	Descriptive	To determine triage knowledge of nurses	The nurses' average triage knowledge score calculated from 18 questions was found as 11.14 ± 3.64 and 67.1% stated that no triage training was given in their institutions/units, and 60.5% stated that they did not think their triage knowledge and skills were sufficient.	It is recommended that institutional managers implement regular and continuous in-service training programs for nurses and support their participation in certification programs to improve their triage knowledge.	2016	Associate Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Students (n = 506)	Students	Descriptive	To determine the knowledge of nursing students on preventing hospital infections	According to the data obtained from the study, the average knowledge score of the nurses about preventing hospital infections was found to be 54.28.	It may be suggested that infectious diseases and prevention should be wider in lessons in nursing schools.	2016	Associate Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Students (n = 270)	Students	Descriptive	To determine the opinions of the fourth-class students of health sciences faculty on tissue/organ transplant and donation	According to the results of the research, age average of the students was 22.27 ± 2.17 , none of the students have had tissue/organ transplant or donation. 57.4% of students would like to donate their organs and 88.4% of students would like to donate their organs for "saving lives."	It is recommended that educational planning, an increase in awareness trainings and tissue/organ transplant and donation campaigns, and use of media should be involved.	2017	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published

(Continued)

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses (Continued)

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Patient relatives (n=106)	Surgical clinic	Descriptive	To determine the information needs of the relatives of patients to be operated and their state of being informed	92.5% relatives received information, 97.9% of the participants stated the doctors are their source of information, all participants liked to receive information verbally. 54.5% of them needed information for the postoperative period, 17.0% of them needed information during the operation and 8.5% of them needed information about the preoperation period.	Continuous training for planning preparations, before operative care and postoperative care and discharging, and informing the patient and their relatives regarding these stages are recommended.	2017	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Healthy women between 18 and 65 years of age (n=235)	Society	Descriptive	To determine the attitudes and beliefs of women about breast cancer and self-examination and the affecting factors	44.68% of women had a mammography, 55.74% had clinical breast examination, 74.04% had breast self-examination, 78.30% were knowing how to have breast self-examination, sub-dimension scores of women at Champion's Health Belief Model Scale varied between $7.38 \pm .33$ and 33.40 ± 6.99 and statistically had a meaningful difference.	It is recommended that women should be informed about breast self-examination by the experts providing evidence-based documents since the source of information is visual and written press.	2017	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Surgical patients (n=218)	Surgical clinic	Methodologic	To analyze the validity and reliability of the Turkish version of Revised American Pain Society Outcome Questionnaire in surgical patients	It has been determined that the reliability coefficient of item-total score correlations of the 18 items in the scale/questionnaire was in a positive direction and statistically very meaningful at advanced level as r was between .27 and .83 ($P < .001$)	It is recommended that this scale to be used in the evaluation of pain management quality and patient outcomes in surgical patients and in the planning of appropriate nursing interventions according to the results.	2017	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published

(Continued)

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses (Continued)

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Health professionals (n = 212)	All clinics of a private hospital	Descriptive	To determine the knowledge of nurses, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians on adult basic life support	It was determined that 69.34% of the health personnel received Basic Life Support (BLS), 72.63% of those who took this training received it from doctors, 67.88% applied Basic Life Support (BLS), and 51.09% found themselves sufficient in Basic Life Support (BLS).	It is recommended that in-hospital training should be given more space and should be continuous.	2017	Assistant Prof. Emergency Medicine	Not Published
Students (n = 270)	Students	Descriptive	To determine the information needs of male students on testicular cancer, testicular self-exam, and application	90.7% of the students had never heard of testicular cancer, 92.2% did not perform testicular self-exam, 97.8% did not receive any training on testicular examination, and 92.2% of them had testicular cancer and it was determined that they wanted to get more detailed information about testicular self-examination and prevention and early diagnosis of testicular cancer at the same rate.	It is recommended that nurses provide social awareness through educational activities, be trained for the early diagnosis and treatment of testicular cancer, constantly update their knowledge, and use the media to create social awareness.	2018	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Students (n = 728)	Students	Descriptive	To determine the knowledge levels of nursing students on pain management	Average score of the that students was 6.71 ± 2.01 from the general pain information questionnaire, and average score of general knowledge about pain was 17.95 ± 5.53 .	It is recommended to provide adequate training on pain in the nursing curriculum, to plan in-service trainings, and to increase and maintain courses and seminars.	2018	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Primary school teachers (n = 105)	Society	Descriptive	To determine the knowledge of primary school teachers on basic first-aid procedures	63.8% of teachers stated they went through basic first-aid training and 87.6% wanted to attend the training. The level of first-aid knowledge of teachers who have received training was significantly higher compared to those who have never had training.	It is recommended that first-aid courses should be added to the curriculum of the education faculties. First-aid courses should be offered as continued education for teachers	2018	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published

(Continued)

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses (Continued)

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Colonoscopy patients (n = 101)	Endoscopy unit	Descriptive	To determine information needs of colonoscopy patients on colonoscopy	It was determined that 99% of the patients wanted to take verbal training for colonoscopy. Patients whose education level was at high school or above were identified as more informed about colonoscopy and this has made a statistically significant difference.	It is recommended that nurses working in endoscopy units should update their knowledge and applications with continuous training to keep themselves up to date to overcome any problems that are likely to occur.	2018	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Renal transplant patients (n = 116)	Surgical clinic	Descriptive	To determine the adherence of renal transplant patients to immunosuppressive drugs and the affecting factors	77% of the patients got a transplant from a living donor and 43.8% of these got the transplant from their mother/father/siblings. 49% of the patients had the surgery 1–1.5 years ago. 57% of the patients used 5–6 drugs per day and 99% of them use their drugs regularly and 96% of them use their drugs without any missing takes.	Continuous evaluation of the level of adherence to immunosuppressive treatment of the patients by nurses, evaluation of level of adherence to immunosuppressive treatment with different methods of assessment, evaluation of factors that impact patients with low adherence to immunosuppressive treatments is advised.	2018	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Coronary artery bypass graft surgery patients (n = 104)	Cardiovascular surgery clinic	Descriptive	To determine the self-efficacy levels of coronary artery bypass graft surgery patients	According to some descriptive characteristics of patients at CABG surgery, when the scores of scale and subscales were examined, means of scores of scale and some of subscales, namely males than females, married than singles, high school graduates than the others and in addition, scores of Self-Care Management subscale were found to be higher for patients under the age of 60 and had a statistically significant difference.	Treatment, care, and discharge planning should be made by taking in to account the self-efficacy of the patients. It is important to improve awareness of health professionals on the importance of self-efficacy and educate patient/relatives and health professionals about self-efficacy for changing the life styles of patients.	2018	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published

(Continued)

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses (Continued)

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Open heart surgery patients (n=70)	Cardiovascular surgery clinic	Descriptive	To investigate the factors affecting pain characteristics and severity experienced by open heart surgery patients and the affecting factors	The mean score of the worst pain severity in the last 24 hours was 7.50 ± 2.15 points, the mean of the mean pain intensity was 2.04 ± 1.21 points, the mean pain intensity in the last 24 hours was 4.66 ± 1.68 points, and the mean pain intensity at the interview was 2.61 ± 1.88 .	It is recommended to organize clinical protocols by a team of nurses, anesthesiologists, and cardiovascular surgeons on the use of multimodal treatment methods in the pain management of patients and to repeat the study using a larger sample.	2018	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Surgical patients (n=141)	Operating room	Descriptive	To examine the quality of care provided to surgical patients in respect to postoperative pain experience and pain management	87.94% of the patients define pain as tingling, 87.94% experienced pain when getting out of bed, and 98% waited 10 minutes or less for pain treatment. It is highlighted that the average the worst pain score experienced by the patients in 24 hours was 7.50 ± 1.44 , average pain experienced during the survey in the third operative day was 2.77 ± 1.35 .	It is recommended to determine the training needs of patients on pain control before surgery, to plan individual trainings for this purpose, and to include these trainings among standard nursing care activities.	2018	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Diabetic patients (n=250)	All clinics	Descriptive	To investigate the knowledge and attitudes of diabetic patients on foot care	67% of patients did not participate in any diabetes education program and 33.2% had diabetic foot disease. Diabetic education had a statistically significant difference.	Since they have to care for patients with diabetes and educate patients and their relatives, it is recommended that nurses update their knowledge and practices with continuous training on diabetes.	2018	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published

(Continued)

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses (Continued)

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Patients discharged from intensive care unit (n=114)	Cardiovascular surgery clinic and intensive care unit	Descriptive	To assess the experiences of patients discharged from intensive care units	The mean total score of the intensive care experiences scale was found to be 55.83 ± 8.43. The highest score average was obtained from awareness of surroundings subscales (17.22 ± 4.04).	It is recommended to evaluate the intensive care experience of patients discharged from the cardiovascular surgery and coronary intensive care unit to the clinic and to plan effective services to improve patient care outcomes in a positive way.	2019	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Published
Students (n = 151)	Students	Descriptive	To determine the opinions of nursing students on clinical teaching in surgical disease nursing course	70.20% of clinical lecturers have positive attitudes. They stated that good communication between nurses and clinical instructors affect the clinical practice positively.	It is recommended to conduct qualitative studies in order to determine in more detail the factors affecting the clinical teaching of the students about the surgical diseases nursing course.	2019	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Students (n = 345)	Students	Descriptive	To determine the knowledge of nursing students on skin cancer and sun protection	2.61% had a family history of skin cancer and 54.78% did not perform skin examination, 63.48% of students had knowledge about skin cancer and sun protection methods and nursing students had average level of knowledge about skin cancer and sun protection.	It was proposed to make arrangements for the development of knowledge and applications for skin cancer and sun protection in nursing programs.	2019	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Surgical patients (n=147)	Departments of surgery, orthopedics and urology	Descriptive	To determine the effects of patient outcome related to postoperative pain management on the level of patient comfort	In the results of working, it has been determined that effective pain management of patients after surgical intervention positively affects patient outcomes and increases comfort level.	According to the results, it is recommended to perform effective pain management after surgical intervention.	2019	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Not Published

(Continued)

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Graduate Theses (Continued)

Sample	Clinic	Research Design	Aim	Conclusion	Suggestion	Year	Title of Advisor and Department	Status
Surgical patients (n=342)	Surgical clinic	Descriptive	To determine the ratio of pressure injury development and the risk factors associated with pressure injuries	Although operating room pressure injuries risk scores of the participants of this study were lower than the average, we found that pressure injuries incidence was 16% and stage 1 pressure injuries developed in the third postoperative day. Higher age, body mass index, physical maneuver during surgery, and prolonged stay at the postoperative care unit were important risk factor for pressure injuries development.	We believe that nursing interventions on risk factors that increase postoperative pressure injuries should be planned in order to prevent pressure injuries.	2020	Assistant Prof. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Surgical nurses (n = 306)	Surgical clinic	Descriptive	To determine the relationship between the COVID-19 fears and hand hygiene practices of surgical nurses	In this study, it is considered that nurses' COVID-19 fear level is over the average whereas the hand hygiene techniques level is at a good point. It was found that the fear of COVID-19 had a positive effect on the hand hygiene practices of surgical nurses.	Nurses whose COVID-19 fears are high need to be guided to get some psychological support.	2021	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Emergency care patients (n = 400)	Emergency care unit	Validity and reliability	To evaluate the validity and reliability of the Jones Dependency Tool to determine the dependency levels of emergency care patients	As a result, it has been determined that the Jones Dependency Tool in our country is a valid and reliable tool that can be used in determining the patient dependency level in emergency departments and accurately estimating the emergency department nurse workload.	Nurse workload according to patient dependency levels in the emergency department of Jones Dependency Tool. It is recommended to be used in determining the number of nurses and planning the number of nurses.	2021	Associate Prof. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
Students (n = 66)	Students	Randomized-controlled trial	To determine the effects of flipped learning method on health beliefs and the knowledge of nursing students on testicular self-examination	Flipped learning method is a student-centered teaching method, and the use of this method in teaching increases students' knowledge and satisfaction level.	According to the results of this study, the flipped classroom model is more effective on student achievement and satisfaction than the traditional teaching method.	2021	Prof. Dr. Surgical Nursing	Not Published
CABG, coronary artery bypass graft.								

Exclusion Criteria includes theses written in English language.

This review article is limited to master's theses that are uploaded to the YÖK thesis center and uploaded to the database of university libraries, written in the Turkish language, have open access, are accessed in full text, and are made in universities within the borders of the TRNC.

Findings

Figure 2 presented the yearly distribution of the theses. Accordingly, 29.7% of the theses were conducted between 2010 and 2015, whereas 70.3% were conducted between 2016 and 2021, with 23.3% published in 2018. Regarding the sample, 40.3% ($n=2825$) of the theses were conducted on patients, whereas 59.7% ($n=4192$) included healthy participants. About 33.3% ($n=2336$) of the healthy participants were nursing students, 14.7% ($n=1035$) were health professionals, 1.5% ($n=106$) were relatives of patients, and 10.2% ($n=715$) were other members of the society.

Analysis of the academic titles of the advisors showed that 40.5% ($n=15$) of the advisors of the theses were professors, 24.3% ($n=9$) were associate professors, and 35.12% ($n=13$) were assistant professors. All theses were conducted under the supervision of a single advisor. Analysis of the departments of the advisors revealed that 91.9% ($n=34$) were conducted in the department of surgical nursing, 2.7% ($n=1$) in obstetrics and gynecology nursing, 2.7% ($n=1$) in psychiatric nursing, and 2.7% ($n=1$) in the department of emergency medicine.

Finally, the analysis of the theses according to their design showed that 96% ($n=32$) were descriptive, 2% ($n=2$) were experimental, and 2% ($n=2$) had a methodological design. Questionnaires based on literature review were used in 57.15% of the theses whereas 42.85% of the theses used scales.

Master's theses are mostly done in surgical services and it is seen that these master's theses were mostly written for the purposes of determining the knowledge needs and increasing the quality of care (Table 1).

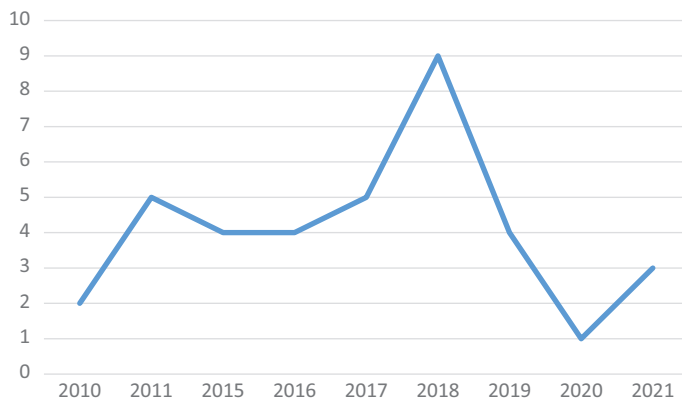


Figure 2.
Number of master's theses on surgical nursing per year.

Discussion

Thirty-seven master's theses conducted on surgical patients in TRNC were analyzed within the scope of this research. Graduate nursing studies in Turkey have been increasing in the last 15 years (Dağcı et al., 2019). On the other hand, graph 1 shows that the number of master's theses on nursing in TRNC has been increasing in the last 11 years.

Developments in healthcare standards and models in surgical nursing have been observed parallel to the advancements in surgery. Within this context, the need for nurses specialized in surgical diseases has increased, and consequently, graduate programs to meet this need have been initiated (Dağcı et al., 2019). In addition, the need for surgical nurses who are ready to lead innovations and developments in healthcare and to influence policies based on nursing science theory, analytical principles, evidence-based practice, and strong leadership are effective in making postgraduate education decisions in favor of surgical nursing. In Turkey and Northern Cyprus, since surgical nurses in those fields of services are leading the inpatient clinics in public and private healthcare institutions, there is a need for qualified surgical nurses in those fields of application. For this reason, surgical nursing postgraduate education continues to increase in Turkey (Dağcı et al., 2019). This situation shows parallelism with TRNC.

The clinical expertise of nurses, patient preferences, and evidence-based nursing interventions are highly important points in the nursing profession. Due to this reason, sufficient research should be conducted and published within the context of nursing interventions (Kocaman, 2003b). Our analysis showed that the number of master's theses on surgical nursing has been increasing since 2016 (Figure 2). An increasing number of theses in TRNC may be closely related to the increasing number of students that prefer to do graduate studies at TRNC.

The review of the master's theses in our study showed that healthy people constituted the majority of the sample in surgical nursing (Table 1). Most studies on healthy participants were conducted on health professionals, which were followed by patients' relatives, nursing students, and other members of society. A systematic review of Ardahan and Özsoy (2015) found that the majority of master's theses were conducted on patients whereas the PhD theses were mostly conducted on healthy participants (Ardahan et al., 2015). The selection of healthy people in nursing studies may be related to two factors: firstly, widespread health problems, such as breast and testicular cancer, are commonly studied in surgical nursing, and secondly, existing studies on nursing attempt to determine the needs of healthy individuals. On the other hand, patients constituted 40.9% of the sample of the studies examined within the scope of this research.

A significant share of the master's theses analyzed in this study provided information on the level of knowledge of healthy individuals, patients, nursing students, and nurses on the issues related to surgical nursing. One of the indicators

of high-quality healthcare is meeting the educational needs of individuals (Doğu, 2014). Various studies underlined the importance of effective patient education to maintain health and recovery, increase the quality of health care, and reduce the physiological and psychological symptoms experienced by the patients (Avşar and Kaşıkçı, 2010; Gürlek Kisacık and Yavuz Van Giersbergen, 2013; Selimen and Andsoy, 2011).

This systematic review found that the advisors of the majority of the master's theses studied in surgical nursing and the number of outside advisors were limited. Specialization of the advisors is crucial to provide effective counseling service to the graduate students of nursing.

Nearly all of the master's theses analyzed within the scope of this research had a descriptive design (Table 1). Students of master's degree are likely to conduct descriptive research due to budget and time limitations or limited expertise. Descriptive research design facilitates the students to learn the basics of the research process and conduct scientific research so that most of the master's students conduct descriptive studies. Graduate students are expected to conduct a scientific study with the help of their advisors during their master's study and unique scientific research in nursing problems during their PhD study. Based on this approach, we may conclude that the use of descriptive design in most of the master's theses analyzed in our research conforms to the principles of master's programs in nursing.

Conclusion

This systematic review of master's theses on surgical nursing conducted in TRNC between 2010 and 2021 found that the number of studies significantly increased, nearly all master's theses had a descriptive design, the theses were mostly conducted on healthy participants, and the advisors of the theses were experts of surgical nursing. Based on the findings of this review, we may suggest further studies on the preoperative and postoperative care of different patients receiving surgical care.

In this systematic review, it was found that the aim of the research in the majority of master's theses in the field of surgical nursing was stated as determining the knowledge levels and information needs of the participants. The research purposes of the other master's theses examined in the research are, respectively, the adaptation of the original scales to Turkish, the determination of opinion or experience, and the examination of the quality of life. In Ardahan's study (2015), it was reported that 53.1% of nursing doctoral theses were done to increase the quality of care, unlike master's theses.

It is seen that suggestions were made by the authors in line with the main results obtained from the master's theses. In parallel with the subjects aimed in the master's theses, among the most frequent suggestions are to increase their sensitivity toward the subject whose information needs are determined, to plan and develop the services within the scope of the subject, and to plan and implement the training.

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THESES THAT HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED

1. 2010
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Nadire TOSUN
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Kafiye EROĞLU
2. 2010
Hemşirelerin Kesici Delici Tıbbi Alet Yaralanmasına İlişkin Bilgi Ve Uygulamaları
Mukaddes AKGÜR
Advisor
Yrd. Doç. Dr. Ümran DAL
3. 2011
Koroner Arter Bypass Greft Ameliyatı Olan Hastaların Taburculuk Sonrası Yaşadıkları Sorunlar Ve Öz Bakım Gücü
Fatma DİREK
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Sevilay Şenol ÇELİK
4. 2011
Kırığı Olan Yaşlı Hastaların Kırığa İlişkin Risk Faktörlerinin Ve Kırıkların Önlenmesine İlişkin Bilgilerinin Belirlenmesi
Filiz UZUN (HERSEK)
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Nurhan BAYRAKTAR
5. 2011
Cerrahi Kliniğinde Yatan Hastaların Uyku Düzenin Etkileyen Etmenlerin Belirlenmesi
Bedriye (FİDAN) YENİÇERİ
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Nurhan BAYRAKTAR
6. 2011
Ameliyat Öncesi Ve Sonrası Dönemde Hastaların Kaygı Düzeylerinin Belirlenmesi
Duygu YILDIZ
Advisor
Yrd. Doç. Dr. Gülcem SALA RAZI
7. 2011
Abdominal Cerrahi Uygulanan Hastalarda Görülen Erken Dönem Sorunları Ve Bu Sorunlara Yönelik Hemşirelik uygulamaları
Aynur ÖZKUM İZVEREN
Advisor
Yrd. Doç. Dr. Ümran DAL
8. 2015
Ameliyathane Ekibinin Güvenli Cerrahi Konusunda Görüş Ve Uygulamalarının Belirlenmesi
Gülşah BEKTAŞ
Advisor
Doç. Dr. Ümran DAL
9. 2015
Laparoskopik Kolesistektomi Uygulanan Hastaların Taburculuk Öncesi Bilgi Gereksinimlerinin Belirlenmesi
Hasret Kübra ZENGİN ÇAKIR
Advisor
Doç. Dr. Ümran DAL
10. 2015
Lomber Disk Hernisi Nedeniyle Cerrahi Girişim Uygulanan Hastaların Taburculuk Aşamasındaki Bilgi Gereksinimleri
Hülya YILDIZ
Advisor
Doç. Dr. Ümran DAL
11. 2015
Günübirlik Cerrahi Sonrası Hastaların Evde Yaşadıkları Güçlüklerin Belirlenmesi
Özlem AYDOĞDU
Advisor
Doç. Dr. Ümran DAL
12. 2015
Cerrahi Aöri Yönetimine İlişkin Hemşirelerin Bilgi Ve Uygulamalarının Belirlenmesi
Havva N. BOLAT
Advisor
Doç. Dr. Ümran DAL
13. 2016
Nane Yagi İnhalasyonunun Ameliyat Sonrası Bulantı Kusma Üzerine Etkisi
Nida AYDIN
Advisor
Doç. Dr. Ümran DAL
14. 2016
Bir Üniversite Hastanesinde Çalışan Hemşirelerin Triyaj Bilgisi
Selda BAL
Advisor
Doç. Dr. Aysel GÜRKAN
15. 2016
Öğrenci Hemşirelerin Hastane Enfeksiyonlarını Önlemeye Yönelik Bilgi Düzeylerinin Belirlenmesi
Kerem YILDIZ
Advisor
Doç. Dr. Ümran DAL
16. 2017
Sağlık Bilimleri Fakültesi Öğrencilerinin Doku/Organ Nakli Ve Bağışı Konusunda Görüşlerinin Belirlenmesi
Gülcan DÜRÜST SAKALLI
Advisor
Yard. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ.
17. 2017
Gazimağusa Devlet Hastanesi'nde Ameliyat Olacak Hastaların Yakınlarının Bilgi Gereksinimleri Ve Bilgilendirilme Durumları
Eda EVRAN
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Fethiye ERDİL
18. 2017
Üniversitede Çalışan Kadınların Meme Kanseri Ve Kendi Kendine Meme Muayenesi İle İlgili Tutum Ve İnançlarının Değerlendirilmesi
Ezgi ÖZOĞUL
Advisor
Yard. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ
19. 2017
Cerrahi Hastalarında Amerikan Ağrı Derneği Revize Hasta Sonuçları Anketi' nin Türkçe Geçerlik – Güvenirliği

- Aysun KESKİN
Advisor
Yard. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ
- 20.2017
Yakın Doğu Üniversitesi Hastanesi Ve Dispanserlerindeki Hemşire, Paramedik Ve Acil Tıp Teknisyenlerinin Erişkin Temel Yaşam Desteği Bilgi Düzeylerinin Saptanması
Ufuk KAYA
Advisor
Yard. Doç. Dr. Semra ASLAY
21. 2018
Üniversitedeki Erkek Öğrencilerin Testis Kanseri Ve Kendi Kendine Testis Muayenesine Yönelik Farkındalıkları
Serdar AYDIN
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Fethiye ERDİL
- 22.2018
Hemşirelik Öğrencilerinin Ağrı Yönetimine İlişkin Bilgilerinin Belirlenmesi
Filiz ASLAN
Advisor
Yrd. Doç. Dr. Burcu TOTUR DİKMEN
- 23.2018
KKTC İskele İlçesindeki İlkokul Öğretmenlerinin Temel İlk Yardım Uygulamalarına İlişkin Bilgi Düzeylerinin Belirlenmesi
Elif İLKHAN KILIÇ
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Fethiye ERDİL
24. 2018
Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti Gazimağusa Devlet Hastanesi'nde Kolonoskopi Uygulanacak Hastaların, Kolonoskopiye İlişkin Bilgi Gereksinimleri
Şerife ÜNLÜ
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Prof. Dr. Fethiye ERDİL
- 25.2018
Böbrek Nakli Yapılmış Hastaların Immunsupresif Tedaviye Uyum Düzeyleri Ve Etkileyen Faktörlerinin Belirlemesi
Esin ÖREN
Advisor
Yard. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ
26. 2018
Koroner Arter Bypass Greft Ameliyatı Geçiren Hastaların Öz-Etkililik Düzeyinin Belirlenmesi
Evrin YÜKSEL
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Fethiye ERDİL
27. 2018
Açık Kalp Ameliyatı Sonrası Hastaların Yaşadıkları Ağrı Şiddeti, Ağrının Özellikleri Ve Ağrıyı Etkileyen Faktörlerin İncelenmesi
Selda ÖĞÜT
Advisor
Yard. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ
- 28.2018
Cerrahi Hastalarında Ameliyat Sonrası Ağrı Deneyimleri Ve Ağrı Kontrolünde Hastaya Verilen Bakımın Kalitesinin İncelenmesi
Laika KÖSE TAMER
Advisor
Yard. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ
- 29.2018
Gazimağusa Devlet Hastanesi Servislerinde Yatan Diyabetli Hastaların Ayak Bakımına Yönelik Bilgi Düzeylerinin Belirlenmesi
Mine AYDIN
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Fethiye ERDİL
- 30.2019
Kardiyovasküler Cerrahi Ve Koroner Yoğun Bakım Ünitesinden Taburcu Olan Hastaların Yoğun Bakım Deneyimlerinin Belirlenmesi
Hakan ÇAĞLAYAN
Advisor
Yard. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ
31. 2019
Hemşirelik Öğrencilerinin Cerrahi Hastalıkları Hemşireliği Dersi Klinik Öğretimi İle İlgili Görüşlerinin Belirlenmesi
Kübra YILDIRIM
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Sevinç TAŞTAN
- 32.2019
Hemşirelik Öğrencilerinin Deri Kanseri Ve Güneşten Korunmaya Yönelik Bilgilerinin Belirlenmesi
Tuğba ALTUN
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Fethiye ERDİL
- 33.2019
Ameliyat Sonrası Hastaların Ağrı Yönetimine İlişkin Hasta Bakım Sonuçlarının Konfor Düzeylerine Etkisi
Fatma TOKPINAR
Advisor
Yrd. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ
- 34.2020
Cerrahi Hastalarda Ameliyata Bağımlı Basınç Yarası Risk Faktörlerinin Belirlenmesi
Esra İLKHAN
Advisor
Yrd. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ
- 35.2021
Cerrahi Kliniklerde Çalışan Hemşirelerin Koronavirüs Korkuları İle El Hijyeni Uygulamaları Arasındaki İlişkinin İncelenmesi
İlayda EKŞİCİ
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Sevinç TAŞTAN
- 36.2021
Acil Servise Başvuran Hastaların Bağımlılık Düzeylerinin Belirlenmesinde Jones Bağımlılık Aracının Türkçe Geçerlilik Ve Güvenirliğinin Değerlendirilmesi
Müsteyde ARSLAN
Advisor
Yrd. Doç. Dr. Gülten SUCU DAĞ
37. 2021
Terz Yüz Edilmiş Eğitim Modeli İle Eğitim Yönteminin Hemşirelik Öğrencilerinin Testis Muayanesi Bilgi Ve Sağlık İnançları Üzerine Etkisi: Randomize Kontrollü Çalışma
Kamil AKÇALI
Advisor
Prof. Dr. Sevinç TAŞTAN