Practice and the Influencing Factors of Nurses Working in the Intensive Care Unit regarding Physical Restraint use: Multi-centered cross-sectional study

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Abstract
Background: Nurses working in the intensive care unit commonly use physical restraint on critically ill patients. The main reason for the restraining of patients is to prevent the dislodgement of invasive procedures/medical equipment, reduce agitation. Patients are exposed to different complications from physical restraint like worsening of agitation and delirium, fall injury, limb edema, restricted circulation, and skin laceration at restraint site, and death as a result of nurses’ improper practice regarding restraining. Despite this impact, there was no documented study in Ethiopia in this regard. Objective: To assess practice and its influencing factors of nurses working in the Intensive Care Unit regarding physical restraint Methods: An institution-based cross-sectional study was conducted from July to August 2019 at Amhara regional state referral hospitals, Northwest Ethiopia. All (260) nurses working in the intensive care unit were invited to participate through a convenience sampling technique. Structured questionnaires which consist of socio-demographic, professional characteristics and Level of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Staff Regarding Physical Restraints Questionnaire were used. Simple and multiple linear regression and beta (β) coefficient at 95% confidence interval was employed with p-value<0.05 as statistical significance.
Result: The mean score of nurses’ practice regarding physical restraint use among critically ill patients was 30.94±5.44. Nurses with short (≤2 years) experience of the intensive care unit, received educational training during graduate class regarding restraining, knowledge and attitude scores were the factors significantly associated with nurses’ practice score regarding physical restraining use.
Conclusion: The practice regarding physical restraint use among critically ill patients among participant nurses’ was a satisfactory. The administrators’ should develop and provide educational and in-service training programs for nurses working in intensive care unit settings regarding physical restraint use and its alternatives, which is crucial for the nurses’ to improve their behavior of restraining. Keywords: Intensive care unit, Nurses’, Practice, Physical restraint

Background
Physical restraint (PR) refers to any physical devices or methods attached to or near the patient’s body which restricting a person’s freedom of movement, physical activity or normal access that could
not be controlled by the patient (1, 2). Physical restraint is used in hospitals when patients’ are confused when the alternative methods are inadequate and physically harmful to themselves and others (1-3). About 80% of critically ill patients who are admitted to the intensive care unit have agitation, confusion, sleeplessness, and disruptive behavior (4). Intensive care unit (ICU) health professionals try to reduce those behaviors by using different measures like lowering bed height, raising bed rails, using the sedating medication before physical restraint (5, 6). So health professionals in the intensive care unit use physical restraint to reduce the risk of a patient’s falling, prevent removal of life support equipment and procedures, and reduce the risk of patients harming himself or others (1). Several works of literature reported that physical restraint use range from 3.4–79% worldwide (7–10). As a result of its purpose, physical restraint (PR) is commonly used in ICU. Studies indicated that nurses do not believe that using physical restraints in hospitals can result in restlessness, aggression, and injury (11).

Good quality of service at ICU is predicted by a nurse's practice (behavior) regarding PR use on critically ill patients (12). Improper nurses' practice regarding PR use is common in ICU settings with the prevalence rate of its items range 1.7%-75% (13–16). This causes a high rate of complications associated with PR due to insufficient use (17, 18). According to different published studies report, the mean score of practice range 17.08–45.44 (8, 15, 19)Researches showed, restrained patients in the ICU encounter prolonged hospital stays and adverse psychological and physical consequences like agitation, aggression, limb edema, and skin laceration at restraint site, and fall which resulted in a poor quality of health care system (7, 20, 21). Different studies (22–25), have shown, more than half of critically ill patients have restrained and they faced complications from PR due to improper practice of nurses on it. Yet, despite these potential complications, there are insufficient guidelines and regulations on the use of physical restraints present itself as a serious problem (26).

The influencing factors of nurses’ better practice on PR use were male in gender, longer year of experience, and longer working years at ICU, day shift work, and higher academic qualification, lower number of patients care per day, getting In-service and educational training regarding PR (10, 13, 15, 17). Nurses’ knowledge and attitudes regarding PR is an important factor for providing good care for
critically ill patients. Favorable knowledge and a better attitude towards PR of nurses can improve their practice on alternative strategies and physical restraint, and minimizes physical, psychological and ethical dilemma problems associated with PR (4, 17, 27).

Even though ICU nurses' practices have an impact on the use of physical restraint, there is no study that shows the practice of nurses working in ICU regarding PR use in Ethiopia. So identifying nurses’ practices regarding physical restraint use is crucial for improving nurses’ behavior on the application of PR use among critically ill patients. Again this contributes to using alternative strategies to minimize physical, psychological and ethical dilemma problems associated with PR to improve the quality of care among critically ill patients. Hence the aim of this study was to assess the practice and its influencing factors of nurses working in the ICU regarding PR use at Amhara regional state referral hospitals, Northwest Ethiopia.

Methods
Multi-centered institution based cross-sectional study was conducted among nurses working in ICU at Amhara Regional State Referral Hospitals (ARSRHs), Northwest Ethiopia from July to August 2019. There are five referral hospitals (Felege-Hiwot, Dessie, Debre-Markos, Debre-Birhan, and University of Gondar referral hospitals) in which intensive care is provided for critically ill patients. Nurses who were working at neonatal and pediatric ICU, on annual leave during data collection, head nurses were excluded from the study. All nurses (n= 260) in those hospitals invited to participate; however, 237 nurses have participated with their willingness through convenience sampling technique.

Data collection procedure and tool
Structured self-administered questionnaires including socio-demographic, professional characteristics and Level of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Staff Regarding Physical Restraints Questionnaire were used. Data was collected by five nurses who were the heads of each ICU ward who distributed the questionnaires to the respondents by getting their willingness and collected the filled data. The questionnaire was prepared by the researchers in the English language which is used for the collection of the information. Each questionnaire was accompanied by an information sheet that described the objective of the study and explained participation was voluntary with written consent.
The questionnaire format was filled in their clinical area by the respondent nurses in the presence of the data collectors.

The nurses’ practice regarding PR use was measured by using the practice part of the Level of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Staff Regarding Physical Restraints Questionnaire. On the other hand knowledge and attitude, parts were used for assessing nurses’ knowledge and attitude respectively. The tool was initially developed by Janelli, Scherer, and Kuhn (1994) (28) and then improved by Suen LKP (1999) (29) again which adapted by Kaya et al. in 2008 (30).

The first part of the scale consists of 11 items that have 10 correct questions and 1 false question which measures the knowledge of nursing staff regarding the use of physical restraints. The participants’ responded to the questions were agree or disagree. The correct answer is scored as 1, and the wrong answer is scored as 0. The total score range of knowledge is 0-11; nurses with the total score closer to 0 indicate the very least level of knowledge and those with the total score closer to 11 indicate the highest level of knowledge. The second part is a 4 point likert scale that has 12 items and measures attitudes of nursing staff regarding the use of physical restraints; and responses are "strongly agree"= 4 point, "agree"= 3 points, "don't agree"= 2 points and "strongly disagree"=1. The total score range of this part is 12-48; nurses with the total score closer to 12 reveals very poor attitude and those with the total score closer to 48 reveals the best possible attitude regarding PR use. The third part consists of 14 items to measure practices of the nursing staff regarding the use of physical restraints. The 10th item is a negatively worded item and is scored reversely. The participants responded in a 3 point likert scale "never"= 1, "sometimes"= 2 and "always"= 3. Total scores range 14-42; nurses’ with a total score closer to 14 reveals most undesirable/improper practices and scores closer to 42 indicates excellent/proper practices regarding PR (28-30).

Cronbach’s alpha coefficient of the practice part of this study was 0.82.

**Data processing and analysis**

Coded variables were entered into Epi-Data version 3.1; then exported to IBM SPSS version-20 for analysis. Frequency, percent, mean, standard deviation and range were used to summarize and evaluate the distribution of variables. After performing assumption tests, simple linear regression was
performed to determine the correlation of each independent variable with the practice score. Variables with p-value ≤0.2 during simple linear regression were selected for multiple linear regressions for further analysis and model fitness test (adjusted $R^2$) were also checked. Factors associated with the nurses’ practice regarding PR use were expressed as adjusted unstandardized β coefficient by employing a 95% confidence level. A p-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results
A total of 237 participants took part in the study, with a response rate of 91.2%. The mean age of the participants was 30.50 (SD, 9.93) ranging from 25 to 40 years. The majority of the participants, i.e. $n = 148$ (62.8%) were married and $129$ (54.4%) were males. Nearly two-thirds of the study participants, i.e. $n = 159$ (67.1%) were bachelor's degree by their academic qualification. Nearly half of the participants $n = 118$ (49.8%) had 6-10 years of experience as a nurse and $105$ (44.3%) had ≤ 2 years’ experience in ICU. The majority of participants, $n = 153$ (64.6%) used PR in the past month and nearly half of the participants $n = 118$ (49.8%) were read information about PR in the past year. $81$ (34.1%) of the study participants were received educational training during their graduate class, but no one had gotten In-service training regarding restraining. The majority of the participants $n = 136$ (57.6%) was observed complications associated with PR. The most frequent complication observed by nurses was edema, pain and bruising around the restrained part. Fatigue, agitation, anger, aspiration were the other types of observed complications associated with PR use among critically ill patients (Table 1).
Table 1
Socio-demographic and professional characteristics of nurses working in ICU at ARSRHs, 2019 (n = 237)

| Variables                                      | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Sex                                            |           |             |
| Male                                           | 129       | 54.4        |
| Female                                         | 108       | 45.6        |
| Participants religion                          |           |             |
| Orthodox                                      | 181       | 76.4        |
| Muslim                                        | 43        | 18.1        |
| Protestant                                    | 13        | 5.5         |
| Marital status                                 |           |             |
| Unmarried                                      | 71        | 30.0        |
| Married                                       | 148       | 62.8        |
| Divorced                                       | 18        | 7.6         |
| Academic qualification                        |           |             |
| Diploma                                       | 25        | 10.5        |
| Bachelor’s                                     | 159       | 67.1        |
| Master’s                                       | 53        | 22.4        |
| Work experience as a nurse                     |           |             |
| ≤ 5 years                                      | 94        | 39.7        |
| 6-10 years                                     | 118       | 49.8        |
| More than 10 years                             | 25        | 10.5        |
| Experience at ICU                              |           |             |
| ≤ 2 years                                      | 105       | 44.3        |
| 3-5 years                                      | 87        | 36.7        |
| ≥ years                                        | 45        | 19.0        |
| Use of PR in the past month                    |           |             |
| Yes                                           | 96        | 40.5        |
| No                                            | 141       | 59.5        |
| Reading about PR in the past year              |           |             |
| Yes                                           | 118       | 49.8        |
| No                                            | 119       | 50.2        |
| Received educational training in a graduate class about PR | | |
| Yes                                           | 81        | 34.2        |
| No                                            | 156       | 65.8        |
| Use of alternative methods before PR           |           |             |
| Yes                                           | 125       | 52.7        |
| No                                            | 112       | 47.3        |
| Number of patients care per day                |           |             |
| 2 patients                                     | 59        | 24.9        |
| 3-4 patients                                   | 122       | 51.5        |
| ≥ 5 patients                                   | 56        | 23.6        |
| Observe complications from PR                  |           |             |
| Yes                                           | 136       | 57.4        |
| No                                            | 101       | 42.6        |
| Working shift time                             |           |             |
| Day shift                                      | 66        | 27.8        |
| Night shift                                    | 35        | 14.8        |
| Day and/ night Shift                          | 136       | 57.4        |
| Age                                            | Range 23-40 | Mean = 30.5 |
|                                               |           | Median 30   |
|                                               |           | SD = 9.93   |
|                                               |           | IQR = 28-33 |

Knowledge, attitude, and practice of nurses working in ICU regarding PR use

The mean score of knowledge regarding PR among nurses working in the ICU was 7.81 (95% CI 7.56, 8.05) with the standard deviation (SD) of 1.89, ranging from 4–11 (Table 2). The mean score of nurses' attitude regarding PR was 33.73 (95% CI 32.89, 34.56) with the standard deviation (SD) of 6.50, ranged from 18–47 (Table 3).
| Items                                                                 | Responses n (%)                                                                 | Correct       | Incorrect  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Physical restraints are safety, garments designed to prevent injury.| 158 (66.7)                                                                      | 79 (33.3)     |            |
| 2. Restraints should be used when one cannot watch the patient closely.| 153 (64.6)                                                                      | 84 (35.4)     |            |
| 3. Patients are allowed to refuse to be placed in a restraint.       | 169 (71.3)                                                                      | 68 (28.7)     |            |
| 4. If physical restraints (safety vest, garment) are to be used, a member of the patient's family is required to sign a consent form. | 202 (85.2)                                                                      | 35 (14.8)     |            |
| 5. Restraint should be released every 2 hours if the patient is awake.| 175 (73.8)                                                                      | 62 (26.2)     |            |
| 6 Restraints should be put on snugly so that there is no space between the restraint and the patient's skin. | 162 (68.4)                                                                      | 75 (31.6)     |            |
| 7. When a patient is restrained, the skin can break down or restlessness can increase. | 153 (64.6)                                                                      | 84 (35.4)     |            |
| 8. When a patient is restrained in bed, the restraint should not be attached to the side rail. | 153 (64.6)                                                                      | 84 (35.4)     |            |
| 9. A patient should never be restrained while lying flat in bed because of the danger of choking. | 172 (72.6)                                                                      | 65 (27.4)     |            |
| 10. Good alternatives to restraints do not exist.                    | 67 (28.3)                                                                       | 170 (71.7)    |            |
| 11. Deaths have been linked to the use of vest restraints.           | 185 (78.1)                                                                      | 52 (21.9)     |            |
| Knowledge total mean score with standard deviation                    | 7.81 ± 1.89; 95% CI: (7.56–8.05)                                                 | Range = 4–11  |            |

| Items                                                                 | Responses (%)                                                                 | SA          | A           | D           | SD          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. I feel that family members have the right to refuse the use of restraints. | 82 (34.6)                                                                      | 105 (44.3)  | 29 (12.2)   | 21 (8.9)    |             |
| 2. If I were the patient, I feel I have the right to refuse or resist when restraints are placed on me. | 74 (31.2)                                                                      | 85 (35.9)   | 60 (25.3)   | 18 (7.6)    |             |
| 3. I feel discomfort/guilty when placing a patient on restraint.     | 50 (21.1)                                                                      | 107 (45.1)  | 73 (30.8)   | 7 (3.0)     |             |
| 4. I feel that the main reason restraints are used is that the hospital is short-staffed. | 47 (19.8)                                                                      | 81 (34.2)   | 90 (38.0)   | 19 (8.0)    |             |
| 5. I feel embarrassed when the family enters the room of a patient who is restrained and they have not been | 68 (28.7)                                                                      | 78 (32.9)   | 74 (31.2)   | 17 (7.2)    |             |
6. It makes me feel bad if the patients get more upset after restraints are applied.

7. I feel bad when patients get more disoriented after the restraints have been applied.

8. A patient suffers a loss of dignity when placed in restraints.

9. The hospital is responsible for adhering to the laws on the use of restraints to ensure the safety of a patient.

10. I feel that placing a patient in restraints can decrease nursing care time.

11. I believe that restraints increase the risk of strangulation.

12. In general, I feel knowledgeable about caring for a restrained patient.

The mean score of practice about PR among nurses working in the ICU was 30.94 (95% CI 30.25, 31.64) with the SD of 5.44 and it ranged from 19–40. Majority of the nurses i.e. N = 135 (57%) responded “always” to the question “I try alternative nursing methods before physically restraining the patient” and nearly half of the nurses i.e. N = 116 (48.9%) also gave answer “always” for the question “I frequently evaluate and record the effect of physical restraint when it is applied to a patient”, and half of the participants i.e. N = 118 (49.8%) responded that applying “sometimes” to the question “When physical restraint is applied. I record on the nursing charts the type of restraint used, the reason for adopting it, the time when the application commences, and the related nursing care required”, whereas i.e. N = 81 (34.2%) of the nurses responded “never” to question “I explain to the patient why the restraint is being applied”. (Table 4)

Table 4

| Participant nurses practice response regarding PR use at ARSRHs, 2019 (n = 237) |
|--------------------------------------------------|
| Items | Responses n (%) |

SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree
|   | Always | Sometimes | Never |
|---|--------|-----------|-------|
| 1. | I try alternative nursing methods before physically restraining the patient | 135 (57.0) | 87 (36.7) | 15 (6.3) |
| 2. | When I restrain a patient, I make this decision only with a physician’s order. | 77 (32.5) | 130 (54.9) | 30 (12.7) |
| 3. | When I feel that the patient does not need to be restrained, I make this suggestion to the doctor. | 65 (27.4) | 118 (49.8) | 54 (22.8) |
| 4. | I answer the call for the patient who is restrained as soon as possible. | 98 (41.4) | 90 (38.0) | 49 (20.7) |
| 5. | I check the restraint every two hours to make sure they are in the proper position. | 98 (41.4) | 96 (40.5) | 43 (18.1) |
| 6. | I inspect the skin of the patient for abrasions or skin tears if I bathe the patient who is restrained. | 90 (38.0) | 104 (43.9) | 43 (18.1) |
| 7. | I tell family members why the patient is being restrained. | 82 (34.6) | 114 (48.1) | 41 (17.3) |
| 8. | I explain to the patient why the restraint is being applied. | 55 (23.2) | 101 (42.6) | 81 (34.2) |
| 9. | I tell the patient when the restraints will be removed. | 75 (31.6) | 107 (45.1) | 55 (23.2) |
| 10. | More patients are restrained when we are short of staff than when we are fully staffed. | 44 (18.6) | 130 (54.9) | 63 (26.6) |
| 11. | In our hospital staff members work together to discover ways to control patients’ behavior other than the use of physical restraints. | 99 (41.8) | 106 (44.7) | 32 (13.5) |
| 12. | I frequently assess if the restraint should be removed. | 67 (28.3) | 147 (62.0) | 23 (9.7) |
| 13. | When physical restraint is applied, I record on the nursing charts the type of restraint used, the reason for adopting it, the time when the application commences, and the related nursing care required. | 97 (40.9) | 118 (49.8) | 22 (9.3) |
| 14. | I frequently evaluate and record the effect of physical restraint. | 116 (48.9) | 91 (38.4) | 30 (12.7) |
when it is applied to a patient

Practice mean score of the participants: 30.94 ± 5.44; 95% CI: (30.25, 31.64)  Range = 19–40

Factors associated with the nurses’ practice regarding PR use

Simple linear regression analysis showed that: age, sex, academic qualification, reading information about PR in the past year, received educational training about PR during a graduate class; years of experience in ICU, knowledge and attitude scores were the variables associated with practice regarding PR use with p-value ≤ 0.1. Multiple linear regressions indicated: received educational training during graduate class about PR, short (≤ 2 years) experience at ICU, knowledge, and attitude were factors significantly associated with nurses’ practice score regarding PR use.

Nurses practice regarding PR use decreases among nurses with short (≤ 2 years) experience in the ICU compared to nurses with long (≥ 6 years) experiences, whereas practice increases among nurses received educational training during graduate class than those not received training. Practice regarding PR use among nurses is increasing as the nurses’ knowledge and attitude score increases (Table 5).

Table 5
Factors associated with nurses’ practice regarding PR use by multiple linear regression, 2019 (n = 237)

| Variables                              | Crude unstandardized β coefficient (95% CI) | Adjusted unstandardized β coefficient (95% CI) |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Sex                                    |                                             |                                               |
| Male                                   | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                         | 0.0  (-0.53, -0.60)                           |
| Female                                 | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                         | 0.0  (-0.53, -0.60)                           |
| Age of nurses                          | 0.36 (0.16, 0.56)                          | 0.36 (0.16, 0.56)                              |
| academic qualification                 |                                             |                                               |
| Master’s                                | 0.1  (-1.39, 0.09)                          | 0.1  (-1.39, 0.09)                             |
| Bachelor’s                              | 0.1  (-1.56, -0.31)                         | 0.1  (-1.56, -0.31)                           |
| Diploma                                |                                             |                                               |
| Reading about PR in the last year      | 0.52 (3.99, 6.44)                          | 0.52 (3.99, 6.44)                              |
| No                                     | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                         | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                           |
| Yes                                    | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                         | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                           |
| Training about PR by, graduate class   | 0.51 (3.82, 6.45)                          | 0.51 (3.82, 6.45)                              |
| No                                     | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                         | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                           |
| Yes                                    | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                         | 0.0  (-3.29, -0.62)                           |
| Work experience at ICU                 |                                             |                                               |
| ≥6 years                               | 0.0  (-2.73, 1.47)                          | 0.0  (-2.73, 1.47)                             |
| 3–5 years                              | 0.0  (-2.73, 1.47)                          | 0.0  (-2.73, 1.47)                             |
| ≤2 years                               | 0.0  (-2.73, 1.47)                          | 0.0  (-2.73, 1.47)                             |
| Working time type                      |                                             |                                               |
| Regular day                            | 0.30 (-1.66, 2.27)                          | 0.30 (-1.66, 2.27)                             |
| Shift day or night                     |                                            |                                               |
| Shift day and night                    | 1.52 (1.21, 1.83)                          | 1.52 (1.21, 1.83)                              |
| Knowledge                              |                                            |                                               |
| Attitude                               | 0.57 (0.49, 0.65)                           | 0.57 (0.49, 0.65)                              |

Note: * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Adjusted R² = 50.2%, F-test p-value < 0.001.
Discussion
PR is widely used in intensive care unit settings among critically ill patients’ to reduce the risk of a patient’s falling, prevent removal of life support equipment and procedures, and reduce the risk of patients harming himself or others among (1). Physically Restrained patients in the ICU encounter prolonged hospital stays and complications results from restraint as a result of nurses’ improper practices (behavior) of restraining (6, 17, 18, 31) which reduces power from even the most beneficial medical treatments (32). Improving nurses’ practice on the use of restraining, therefore, is crucial to prevent the complication of it and to enhance ICU care service. This study indicated that; mean total score of nurses’ practice was 30.94 ± 5.44, which reflected the majority of the nurses’ had satisfactory practices regarding PR use. The proportions of the nurses who score above the mean score were 56.5%. It indicates that 43.5% of the participants had unsatisfactory practices regarding PR use. This result is agreed with the studies held in Jordan and India (8, 33). The mean score of this study is higher than the studies held in Egypt, Saudi-Arabia, and Malaysia (13–15). The possible reason for the variation might be attributed to that most of the participants in those studies were diploma in their educational qualification but the majority of the nurses in this study were bachelor's and master's in their educational level. So this finding supposed to increase the mean score of practice regarding PR use.
The nurses’ practices mean score of this study is lower than the study held in Turkey and United States (16, 19, 31). The difference of this result might be most of the participants in those studies were got In-service training and the presence of hospitals guideline regarding physical restraint but there is no one who had took In-service training and absence of guidelines regarding PR for the care of critically ill patients. So this finding supposed to decrease the mean score of nurses’ clinical practice.
Regarding predictor variables; short (≤ 2 years) experience at ICU (β= -1.34, 95% CI: (-2.47, -0.21)) was significantly associated with improper practice regarding PR use. The possible reason might be when the nurses had short years of experience; they are facing problems for applying the best nursing activities properly regarding physical restraints than long years of experienced nurses (34, 35). This finding was consistent with the previous study (15). This study showed that received educational training about PR during graduate class (β = 1.49, 95% CI: (0.16, 2.82)) had a positive correlation with nurses’ practice regarding PR use. If nurses learned related to restraining in their graduate class, this influences them to have a piece of better subjective information
(awareness), feeling and performs proper clinical practice regarding the restraining of critically ill patients. This indicates the need for effective educational training regarding restraining by developing the program aimed at maximizing understanding of patient's rights and autonomy, ethical and legal aspects of restraining patient, impact and dangers of PR and restraint alternatives (13, 36, 37). This finding was consistent with other studies (13, 14) which showed proper practice regarding PR use was associated with nurses who had got training in their graduate class.

The nurses’ knowledge score ($\beta = 0.40$, 95% CI: (0.03, 0.78)) was positively associated with the nurses’ practice score regarding PR use. The possible reason might be based on the theory of planned behavior, adequate knowledge of nurses is essential for the basis of their behavior to better subjective feelings regarding restraint use on critically ill patients and to perform appropriate nursing activities during constraints. This may increase the likelihood of a proper practice regarding restraint use on patients. This result is in agreement with other studies (13, 14, 22). Indeed, this study showed that a higher attitude score ($\beta = 0.37$, 95% CI: (0.27, 0.47)) was significantly associated with more proper nurses’ practice regarding restraining. The possible reason might be that nurses’ with better subjective feelings and beliefs about restraint use, put themselves in place of patients and their families on the use of PR. This feeling and thought can guide nurses to prefer alternative methods and performs them appropriately when used (14). This result is in agreement with other studies (13, 14, 22). This reveals that in-service training for nursing staff concerning the physical restraining of ICU patients is crucial. The training can improve nurses’ knowledge, attitude and then practice through the reduction of the frequency of complications related to PR among these patients (38).

The participants were nurses’ who were motivated to participate in the study, which limits the external generalizability of the result. Practices regarding PR use were assessed via a self-report questionnaire, which might not reflect the actual behavior of nurses. Since the study design was cross-sectional, as a result of its nature; it is difficult to show the cause-effect relationship between predictors and nurses’ practice regarding PR use.

Conclusion
The participant nurses’ working in ICU at ARSRHs had a satisfactory practice regarding PR use among critically ill patients. There was a negative association between nurses’ experience years in the ICU and nurses’ practice
regarding PR, positive associations between received of training regarding PR in graduate class knowledge, attitude and nurses’ practices regarding PR use.

Recommendations
Based on the findings of this study, the researchers recommended the local administrators’ to develop policies and provide educational and in-service training programs for nurses working in ICUs especially for those with less experience (≤ 2 years) in ICU regarding PR use and its alternatives. It is important to improve nurses’ practice regarding PR use. It is better if the researchers conducted a cohort study to observe whether nurses’ experience of years, educational and in-service training can improve the staff's practice regarding PR use.

Declarations

**Ethics approval and consent to participate**
Ethical approval was obtained from the Institutions Review Board (IRB) of the University of Gondar. The Official letter of cooperation was submitted to all referral hospitals and then a formal letter of permission was obtained from each hospital. Before data collection, the aim of the study was explained verbally to the participants and after their willingness, written permission was obtained before filling the questionnaire. So an informed written consent was obtained from the participants and confidentiality was maintained by omitting their personal identification.

**Consent for publication**
Not applicable

**Availability of data and material**
The data sets used for the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request (tilahunkassew123@gmail.com).

**Competing interests**
The authors declare that they have no competing interests

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**Authors, contribution**
TKG developed the proposal, supervised the data collection, analyzed the data and wrote the draft manuscript. ADT revised the proposal and assist the data analysis. BLW revised the proposal and revised and approved the manuscript. Finally, all authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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**Abbreviations**

| Abbreviation | Description                  |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| ARSRHs       | Amhara Regional State Referral Hospitals |
| ICU          | Intensive Care Unit          |
| PR           | Physical Restraint           |
| SPSS         | Statistical Packages of Social Sciences |

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