

# Statement of the Problem

## Qualitative Research

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In the medical-surgical nursing field, there is a significant gap in understanding the lived experiences and perspectives of nurses regarding the challenges of post-operative pain management. Despite technological and procedural advancements, nurses often encounter barriers that impede effective pain relief for patients. These barriers include inconsistencies in pain assessment, communication challenges with patients, and variations in pain management practices. Understanding these experiences qualitatively is essential to developing targeted interventions that can improve pain management practices and patient outcomes.

### **Background:**

Medical-surgical nurses are crucial in managing post-operative pain, yet their experiences and perspectives are often underexplored. Effective pain management is not solely dependent on clinical skills but also on the ability to navigate the complex interactions with patients, healthcare teams, and institutional protocols. Exploring nurses' lived experiences can provide deeper insights into the systemic and interpersonal factors that influence pain management practices.

### **Research Objectives:**

1. To explore the experiences and perspectives of medical-surgical nurses on post-operative pain management.
2. To identify the barriers and facilitators that nurses encounter in assessing and managing post-operative pain.
3. To understand the communication dynamics between nurses and patients regarding pain management.
4. To explore nurses' views on the adequacy of their training and institutional support in managing post-operative pain.

**Research Questions:**

1. What are the lived experiences of medical-surgical nurses in managing post-operative pain?
2. What barriers do nurses perceive in effectively assessing and managing post-operative pain?
3. How do communication practices between nurses and patients impact pain management outcomes?
4. How do nurses perceive the adequacy of their training and the support they receive from their institutions in managing post-operative pain?

**Significance:**

A qualitative exploration of nurses' experiences with post-operative pain management can reveal the nuanced challenges and opportunities that quantitative studies might overlook. By understanding these experiences, healthcare administrators and educators can develop more effective training programs, create supportive institutional policies, and foster a culture of communication and collaboration that enhances pain management practices. Ultimately, this research aims to improve patient outcomes, nurse satisfaction, and overall healthcare quality in medical-surgical settings.