Empathy in New Graduate Nurses

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Introduction

Nurse empathy is associated with:
• Decreased burnout in nurses
• Improved patient and family satisfaction

Empathy has not been studied in new graduate nurses

Design/Sample

Design: Quantitative, non experimental, and cross sectional
Instrument: Jefferson Scale of Empathy
Setting: Nurse residency program at a level one trauma center in northern California
Sample: 4 cohorts of new nurse graduates in a yearlong nurse residency program at one, four, eight, and ten months experience (n= 57)

Analysis

The data was analyzed with one way ANOVA using SPSS software

Results

No statistically significant difference in empathy levels of new graduate nurses at different points in the nurse residency program

Male nurses had statistically significant lower levels of empathy when compared to female nurses (p < 0.05)

Summary

Overall, empathy levels in this group of new graduate nurses were high

Male nurses had lower levels of empathy when compared to female nurses

Conclusions/Further Study

Further research on empathy in new nurse graduates:
• What are new graduate nurse empathy levels in hospitals without residency programs?
• Possibly implement longitudinal design to evaluate changes in empathy levels

Empathy training is needed in residency programs to reduce the gender gap

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