Providing Professional Supports to Help Families Successfully Transition Into the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

Li-Chi Chiang, PhD, RN
School of Nursing, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan

Purpose: To identify the individualized needs of families of children in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and to support parents through individualized family interviews and PICU parents' information handbook by a mixed method.

Methods: We designed a mixed method for the families have a child stayed in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at a children's hospital in Taiwan. The randomized control trial and in-depth interviews were conducted parallel. Outcome measures included the Critical Care Family Needs Inventory, acute stress scale, hospital anxiety/depression, and family function which were assessed while hospitalization in the first 24 hours, discharged and follow-up in three months. The parents in the experimental group have received an individualized family interview for 45 to 60 minutes and providing a PICU parent information handbook with detail information about the PICU. The parents in the comparison group only received the PICU parents' information handbook.

Results: We recruited 62 parents and child dyads for quantitative data collection, and 12 families were interviewed (Only 52 family members of children with critical illness were completed questionnaire, because of dying and relocation). No statistically significant sub-scale differences in survey responses of parents and children among experimental and comparison groups. Parents have severe acute stress, anxiety, and depression while their children hospitalized in PICU, and reduced were after discharge (P< 0.01) and three-month follow-up. The parents in the experimental group have better mental health (P<0.05) and family function (P< 0.001) by General Estimated Equation (GEE) analysis. We identified three themes of this critical condition of families: Intimate sadness surrounding the whole families, Looking forward to any resources from the social network, Stabilized the family process and function.

Conclusion: This mixed-methods study identified that families of PICU children have urgent needs to stabilized families' homeostasis. The nurse-led family interview could help the families' successful transition during critical PICU experiences.

Title:
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Keywords:
parents, pediatric intensive care and transitional care

Abstract Summary:
We implemented an individual family interviewed to help the parents’ successful transition in the Pediatric Intensive Care (PICU). The results indicated the parents in the experimental group have better mental health and improved the family function.

References:


First Primary Presenting Author
Primary Presenting Author
Li-Chi Chiang, PhD, RN
National Defense Medical Center
School of Nursing
Professor
Taipei
Taiwan

Author Summary: A nursing scientist, major in pediatric nursing, nursing education, research methodology, evidence-based nursing in School of Nursing, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC. In addition, a nursing educator in School of Nursing, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC. and China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan, ROC.