NURSING CARE GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS WHO HAVE HAD NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE'S

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OBJECTIVES FOR LECTURE

- Definition of NDE
- Discuss Key Authors in NDE Research
- Characteristic & After Effects
- Provides guidelines for Nurses
DEFINITION

A Near Death Experience is when a person has a clinical crisis, an accident or traumatic event and goes on to experience one or more of the 15 characteristics that are usually associated with the Near-Death Experience (NDE). Corcoran.(1988)
Dr. Raymond Moody

- PhD., M.D. in psychiatry
- Father of Near-Death Experience
- *Life After Life* (1975) N=150 cases
  - Cardiac patients, established characteristics
- Wide acceptance
- *Glimpses of Eternity* (2010) shared death experiences, the empathic experience
Dr. Bruce Greyson

- Professor of Psychiatry, Director of the Division of Perceptual Studies at UVA.
- Father of NDE Research
  - Greyson NDE Scale for evaluating NDE’s systematically developed and validated
  - Editor of Journal of Near-Death Studies
  - Largest contributor to NDE research
  - Co author of Irreducible Mind (2007)
Dr. Ken Ring

- Psychology Professor
- Initial broad analysis of NDE-five stages
- *Life at Death* (1980) - Connecticut Study
  - First systematic study-no correlation of NDE with other factors
  - NDE’s are indicative of humanity’s evolutionary change to higher level of consciousness

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PROSPECTIVE STUDY

- Pim van Lommele et study 2001
  - 344 cardiac arrest cases, 62 with NDE follow up after 2 and 8 years
  - Recall of NDE still accurate after 8 years
  - Published in Lancet
  - Led to greater awareness of NDE in the scientific community
CURRENT WORK

- Dr. Eben Alexander Neurosurgeon
  - 2012- Proof of Heaven 30 weeks on NY Times Best Seller list
  - Was non believer until he lapsed into a coma for 7 days, with glucose of 1, not expected to live, woke up with no cognitive dysfunctions, he had extensive NDE
  - Now believes NDE can occur outside of functioning brain
CURRENT RESEARCH

- Cant, Cooper, Chung, O’Connor, 2012 (Apr) *International Emergency Nursing*
- Explores the prevalence of NDE’s with resuscitation, up to 23% in critical care patients
- Discusses nurses role in supporting patients during this time
- Nurses should also support families
WHO HAS NDE’S

- Anyone
- Any age
- Any gender
- Any culture
- Any religion, or lack of a religious bias
- Any social economic group
CIRCUMSTANCES

- Surgery
- Childbirth
- MI
- Near Drowning
- Electrocution
- Terminal Illness

- Accidents
- Allergic Reactions
- Illness
- Extreme Distress
- Combat
- Extreme trauma
CHARACTERISTICS

- Hearing unusual noises or music
- Watch your physical body from ceiling-being separate from your physical body
- Ineffability, difficult to describe, no language available
- Meeting Spiritual Beings / God
- Being greeted by deceased relatives
CHARACTERISTICS

- A panoramic life review - have feeling from other person point of view
- Sensation of flying through a tunnel
- A place where all knowledge exists
- City of lights
- Common events witnessed while out of your body
- A very bright beautiful loving, light
AFTER-EFFECTS – Adults

- Loss of the fear of death
- More spiritual
- May be less religious
- Abstract easily
- Difficulty with time Management
- Expansive concepts of love
AFTER-EFFECTS-Adults

- Challenged to maintain old relationships in same way
- Convinced of life purpose
- Heightened sensations of touch, taste, smell, texture
- Increased psychic ability
- Increased interest in subjects not previously known
AFTER-EFFECTS-Adults

- Reversal of body clock
- Less tolerance to chemicals
- Multiple sensing
- Electrical sensitivity
- Change in energy level
- More altruistic
AFTER-EFFECTS-Adults

- Sensitivity to light and loud sound
- May have difficulty explaining behavior to families
- Lower blood pressure
- Less tolerance for medication
- Less materialistic
- Changes effect ones life significantly
SUPPORT GUIDELINES FOR NURSES

- LISTEN,
- Listen for clues
- Don’t judge the experience
- Keep eye contact
- Let patient enjoy the experience
- Let them tell their story, don’t try to analyze
CONTINUED GUIDELINES

- Talk to families, help them understand the experience
- Don’t assume all clergy or doctors will know about these experiences, you may need to provide materials
- If patient is well enough, encourage them to write it down so they can gather details
- Provide resources - articles, local groups - The International Association of Near-Death Studies (IANDS) IANDS.ORG
RESOURCES

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEAR DEATH STUDIES

Phone: 919 383 7940
Web: IANDS.org
Email: services@iands.org
dcorcoran1946@gmail.com
FACTS TO REMEMBER

- MD estimates as many as 70% of kids who come close to death have NDE’s.
- A poll taken in 1997 by U.S. News & World Reports estimates there are 15 million experiencers in the US. This does not include children or elderly.
- Patients are leaving hospitals everyday having had a NDE.
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
THE END

AND THE BEGINNING
WOMENS VIET NAM MEMORIAL

www.nomm.com/dePhoto.htm