Qualitative Analysis of Empathic Behavior Process Among Home–Visiting Nurses in Japan

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Purpose
Empathic Support Behavior Scale ver.2 (Ueno, et al.,2013) consists of two factors: Sense of responsibility and Automatization of understanding and action. According to averages of both of factors, home–visiting nurses were the highest in the following four groups: internal medicine, surgery, psychiatry and home–visiting nursing stations. This study attempted to clarify the structure and process of home–visiting nurses’ empathic behavior to patients.

Methods
We used the Modified Grounded Theory Approach to conduct semi-structured interviews with 10 home–visiting nurses at six home–visiting nursing stations in Japan.

Subjects’ gender: all females
Age, $M=47.6$ years, $SD= 6.6$
Nursing experience, $M=24.4$ years, $SD=7.9$
Home–visit nursing experience, $M=11.8$ years, $SD=4.3$

Conclusion
Home–visiting nurses’ empathic behavior was a process during which the nurses were spending time with patients and consciously getting close to patients’ minds. The nurses gained an understanding of the patients’ suffering during their close relationship with the patients by using these nine skills.

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Figure 1. Concepts and structure of the Empathic Behavior Process