

CHINESE NURSING STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF CASE STUDY USE AS A TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

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Introduction and Purpose

- Chinese nursing education is in the process of transformation aiming to prepare professional nurses to meet the demands of health care.
- Lecture often serves as the primary method of teaching in Chinese nursing schools. However, lecture can be passive and prevents critical thinking.
- Case studies when incorporated with lecture can help students to become active learners and relate topics to real world situations.
- The purpose of this study was to examine Chinese nursing students' perception of the use of case studies in nursing education.



Methods

Subject Criteria:

- Data analysis consisted of associate (n = 21) and baccalaureate (n = 83) nursing students in China (N = 104).
- Students ranged in age from 19- 25 years and 97% were female.

Procedures and Measures

- Students were presented with case study scenarios in class and were required to work with group members to solve clinical problems and answer questions, present group findings, and engage in open dialogue.
- Following the completion of the course students were administered a 5-point Likert survey that assessed the students' perceived satisfaction with the use of case studies in the classroom setting.
- The survey was anonymous and no identifying information was collected.

Analysis

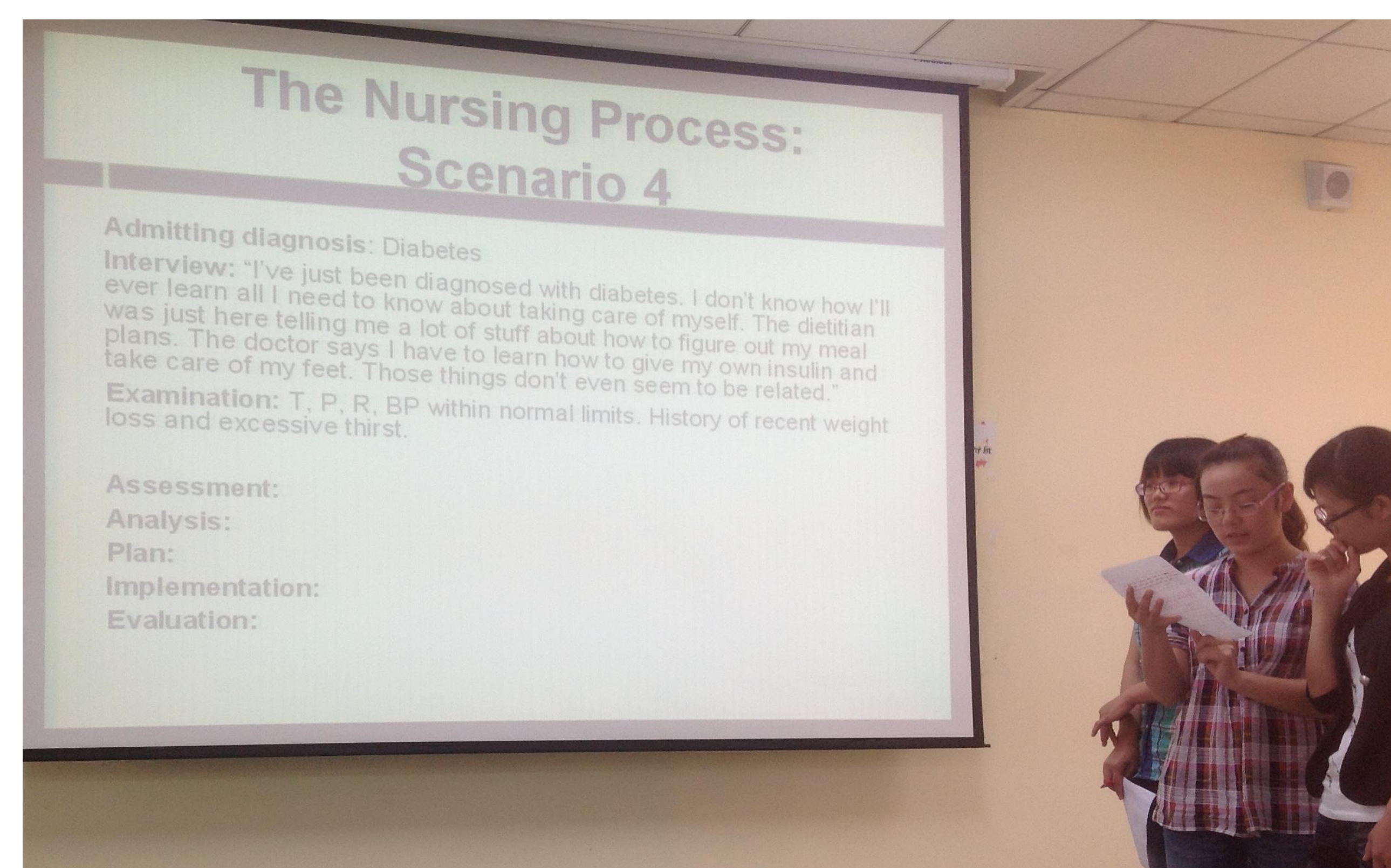
- Descriptive statistics were calculated using SPSS v. 17.0.

Results

Table 1. Student Evaluation of Case Studies

Scaled Question	MEAN± SD
Working with classmates on clinical case studies	
1. Helped to increase my understanding	4.66 ± 0.51
2. Will help me to be successful on national nursing examinations	3.98 ± 0.76
3. Will help me to be a better nurse	4.56 ± 0.58
4. Helped me to apply what I learned	3.85 ± 0.62
5. Helped me to gain more knowledge to use in nursing	4.44 ± 0.58

Note. (Strongly Agree=5; Agree=4; Neither Agree nor Disagree=3; Disagree=2; Strongly Disagree=1)



Discussion

- Our findings were similar to research findings that report the use of an actual situation through case studies provokes students to think critically and apply what is learned.
- We propose that case studies are used to stimulate students to become active learners and to help students relate topics to real world situations and thus increase overall understandings of the subject.

Conclusion

- Chinese nursing students had positive perceptions and were highly satisfied with the use of case studies as a teaching and learning strategy.
- Globally, as nurses are faced with more complex clinical situations of challenging and acutely ill patients, using advancing healthcare technology, and dealing with ethical dilemmas, it is important that students are equipped and presented with teaching and learning strategies that enhance their learning and prepare them to be professional nurses.