

Title:

SPECIAL SESSION: Skin Health, Skin Care, and Dermatology Nursing Worldwide: Evolution of a Clinical Research Programme

Type:

Oral

Keywords:

Dermatology, Global health care and Skin health

Description/Overview:

Skin care is a universal and fundamental element of nursing, yet it is a field that has received limited research attention. This paper illustrates the evolution of a programme of work investigating and developing universal skin care practices, preventing skin disease and, supporting people worldwide living with chronic dermatoses.

Abstract Text:

Introduction and focus: Skin care is a universal and fundamental element of nursing, yet it is a clinical area that has received limited research attention. This paper will briefly outline the significance of skin related health needs. It will then introduce and illustrate the evolution of a programme of research investigating and developing universal skin care practices, preventing skin disease and supporting people worldwide living with chronic dermatoses. It concludes by highlighting the importance of, and scope for, an effective nursing response within both resource rich and resource poor countries.

Context: the significance of skin health, skin care and skin disease worldwide: Skin care transcends nursing specialties. Skin failure takes many forms; breakdown of the skin barrier is but one common nursing-related problem. Dermatological disease can impact significantly, both physically, psychologically and socially (Hay et al., 2014). Skin conditions contributed 1.79% to the global burden of disease measured in DALYs (disability adjusted life years) from 306 diseases and injuries in 2013 (Karimkhani et al., 2017). In 2013, skin diseases were the 18th leading cause of global DALYs in a review of the global burden of disease and excluding mortality, skin diseases were the fourth leading cause of disability worldwide. (Karimkhani et al., 2017). There is a need to identify skin -related health needs and develop effective nursing-related interventions to address these needs.

Evolving a programme of research: A key stimulus for the development of the research programme was the first review of the existing dermatological nursing literature, commissioned by the Department of Health in England, that revealed a significant lack of robust research evidence underpinning this specialist field of practice (Ersser et al., 1998). This paper introduces a research programme that is designed to identifying skin related health needs amenable to nursing interventions. It will illustrate intervention development, including the design of new measurement tools aid robust research evaluation. It will exemplify the need to engage in the systematic review of evidence (Ersser et al., 2014) and for intervention feasibility work (Ersser et al., 2013). The latter has focused on key clinical problem areas, such as eczema care for children; improving self-management in chronic psoriasis through developing theory-based interventions (Ersser et al., 2012) and the development of tools to aid their evaluation (Ersser et al., 2015b) (Cowdell et al., 2012). The programme includes the development of new measurement tools to aid for clinical evaluation, such as self-efficacy in self -managing chronic dermatoses (Ersser et al., 2015b), exploring the measurement of barrier function in clinical contexts and refining relevant outcome indicators of incontinence associated dermatitis (Van den Bussche et al., 2018). Further pathways to impact under development includes the design of complex interventions that drive behavioural change, which have relevance to both the self-management of chronic illness and health surveillance, in the case of the early detection of skin cancer (Ersser et al., 2015a) (Ersser, 2016). Illustrations will also be given of the potential to provide more effective nursing support for those people residing in resource -poor countries, who live with major neglected tropical diseases, such as podocniosis (Brooks et al., 2017) and Buruli ulcer (Effah et al., 2017).

The scope for nursing response internationally: Nursing is a major yet neglected resource in the global response to support those both living with skin disease, especially with widespread chronic illness and the

need for public health protection in persistent problem areas, such as the prevention of the rising incidence of skin cancer (Ersser et al., 2011). The International Society for Dermatology, set its goal as being '*healthy skin for all*' (Community Dermatology Task force of the International Society of Dermatology, 2012), with the nursing service being recognised as having a key role in contributing to the 'capacity to benefit'.

Conclusion: The paper will highlight the imperative to identify skin care needs and interventions that support skin health and dermatological care. These must have their foundations within research programmes that enable the robust design of theory-informed interventions and evaluate their effectiveness. The programme illustrated here is merely a starting point on that important path, and conveys both the challenges and opportunities for nurses to improve skin-related health, worldwide.

References:

BROOKS, J., ERSSER, S. J., COWDELL, F., GARDINER, E., MENGISTU, A. & MATTS, P. J. 2017. A Randomised Controlled Trial to evaluate the effect of a new skin care regimen on skin barrier function in those with pododermatitis in Ethiopia. *Br J Dermatol*.

COMMUNITY DERMATOLOGY TASK FORCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF DERMATOLOGY 2012. An invitation to healthyskinforall.org. *In*: RYAN, T. (ed.).

COWDELL, F., ERSSER, S. J., GRADWELL, C. & THOMAS, P. W. 2012. The Person-Centered Dermatology Self-Care Index A Tool to Measure Education and Support Needs of Patients With Long-term Skin Conditions. *Archives of Dermatology*, 148,1251-1255.

EFFAH, A., ERSSER, S. J. & HEMINGWAY, A. 2017. Support needs of people living with Mycobacterium ulcerans (Buruli ulcer) disease in a Ghana rural community: a grounded theory study. *Int J Dermatol*, 56, 1432-1437.

ERSSER, S. 2016. Guest editorial: Early detection of skin cancer – the challenge. *Dermatological Nursing*, 15, 6.

ERSSER, S., BUCHANAN, P., BULLUS, S., CROWLE, A., DENNIS, H., DOHERTY, C., JACKSON, J., LAWTON, S., PEMZER, R., PETERS, J., PRINGLE, F., RYAN, T., STONE, L., TAYLOR, H., THOMAS, A. & VAN ONSELEN, J. 1998. *Annotated Bibliography of the Dermatological Nursing Literature*, Oxford, Oxford Centre for Health Care Research and Development (in conjunction with Nursing Group, Department of Health (England).

ERSSER, S. J., COWDELL, F., LATTE, S., GARDINER, E., FLOHR, C., THOMPSON, A. R., JACKSON, K., FARASAT, H., WARE, F. & DRURY, A. 2014. Psychological and educational interventions for atopic eczema in children. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*.

ERSSER, S. J., COWDELL, F. C., NICHOLLS, P. G., LATTE, S. M. & HEALY, E. 2012. A pilot randomized controlled trial to examine the feasibility and efficacy of an educational nursing intervention to improve self-management practices in patients with mild-moderate psoriasis. *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology*, 26, 738-745.

ERSSER, S. J., DYSON, J., KELLAR, I., EFFAH, A., CAPERON, L., THOMAS, S., MCNICHOL, E., THOMAS, P. & NEWTON-BISHOP, J. 2015a. A systematic review of interventions for the secondary prevention of skin cancer by self-examination (Protocol),. 17.11.15 ed. York: University of York CRD.

ERSSER, S. J., FARASAT, H., JACKSON, K., DENNIS, H., SHEPPARD, Z. A. & MORE, A. 2013. A service evaluation of the Eczema Education Programme: an analysis of child, parent and service impact outcomes. *British Journal of Dermatology*, 169,629-636.

ERSSER, S. J., FARASAT, H., JACKSON, K., GARDINER, E., SHEPPARD, Z. A. & COWDELL, F. 2015b. Parental self-efficacy and the management of childhood atopic eczema: development and testing of a new clinical outcome measure. *Br J Dermatol*, 173, 1479-85.

ERSSER, S. J., KAUR, V., KELLY, P., LANGOEN, A., MAGUIRE, S. A., NICOL, N. H., PAGE, B. & WARD, C. 2011. The contribution of the nursing service worldwide and its capacity to benefit within the dermatology field. *International Journal of Dermatology*, 50, 582-589.

HAY, R. J., JOHNS, N. E., WILLIAMS, H. C., BOLLIGER, I. W., DELLAVALLE, R. P., MARGOLIS, D. J., MARKS, R., NALDI, L., WEINSTOCK, M. A., WULF, S. K., MICHAUD, C., MURRAY, C. J. L. & NAGHAVI, M. 2014. The global burden of skin disease in 2010: An analysis of the prevalence and impact of skin conditions. *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, 134, 1527-1534.

KARIMKHANI, C., DELLAVALLE, R. P., COFFENG, L. E., FLOHR, C., HAY, R. J., LANGAN, S. M., NSOESIE, E. O., FERRARI, A. J., ERSKINE, H. E., SILVERBERG, J. I., VOS, T. & NAGHAVI, M. 2017. Global Skin Disease Morbidity and Mortality: An Update From the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. *JAMA Dermatol*, 153, 406-412.

VAN DEN BUSSCHE, K., KOTTNER, J., BEELE, H., DE MEYER, D., DUNK, A. M., ERSSER, S., LANGE, T., PETROVIC, M., SCHOONHOVEN, L., SMET, S., VAN DAMME, N., VERHAEGHE, S., VAN HECKE, A. & BEECKMAN, D. 2018. Core outcome domains in incontinence-associated dermatitis research. . *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. (in press).

Content Outline:

Introduction and focus:

- The universal importance of skin care across all fields of nursing
- Nursing-related skin and dermatological care have received limited research attention.
- The significance of skin related health needs.
- To introduce and illustrate a programme of research

Context: the significance of skin health, skin care and skin disease worldwide:

- Dermatological disease can impact significantly, both physically, psychologically and socially
- The need to identify skin-related health needs and develop effective nursing-related interventions to address such needs.

Evolving a programme of research:

- The significant lack of robust research evidence underpinning this specialist field
- Illustrations of intervention development, including the design of new measurement tools to aid robust research evaluation, focused on key clinical problem areas, including those of people widespread in resource -poor countries

The scope for nursing response internationally:

- Nursing is a major, yet neglected resource in the global response to support those living with chronic dermatoses
- Importance of 'healthy skin for all' and the recognition of nursing having a key role in any health services' 'capacity to benefit'.

Conclusion:

- The imperative for nurses to identify skin care needs and interventions that support skin health and dermatological care worldwide, that is supported by an evidence base, which is still in a stage of infancy.

Organizer

Steven Jeffrey Ersser, PhD (Lond)
University of York
Nursing Group, Department of Health Sciences
Professor in Clinical Nursing Research
Seeborn Rowntree Building, Alcuin College,
Heslington
York
United Kingdom

Professional Experience: Current post: Professor in Clinical Nursing Research, University of York, UK
Worked in the dermatological nursing field for 28 years. One of the first nurses worldwide to hold a professorial chair in the dermatological / skin care field, since 2007. World Congress of Dermatology 2002-2016: lead organiser -nursing scientific meetings and inaugural nursing leadership workshop (2016)
Inaugural President: International Skincare Nursing Advisory Board (1989-2010) BDNG Stone Award winner 2006: recognising national and international contribution to dermatological nursing Founded the research committee of the British Dermatological Nursing Group (BDNG) and Dermatology Nurses Association (USA) and BDNG annual scientific meeting. Author: of 128 publications, mainly in the dermatology and skin care nursing field: -88 refereed papers, 5 books, 23 book chapters, 12 research reports. Conference papers: delivered 76 across 24 countries. Editorial Board: Dermatological Nursing Nurse member: UK National Institutes for Health Research (NIHR) -Dermatology Committee. Member: UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network.

Author Summary: Steven Ersser is Professor in Clinical Nursing Research at the University of York, UK. He has worked in the dermatology field for 28 years and was one of the first nurses worldwide to hold a professorship in this specialty. As founding President of the International Skincare Nursing Advisory Board (1989-2010), he led nursing scientific meetings at the World Congress of Dermatology (2002-2016). In 2018 he was inducted into STTI International Nurse Researchers Hall of Fame.