

A Qualitative Study of Nurses' Experience for Patients with Spinal Cord Injury Requiring Neurogenic Bowel Management

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Background

- Neurogenic bowel dysfunction is a chronic complication hindering function and quality of life for people with spinal cord injury (SCI).
- Current evidence suggests that preventing unpredictable bowel movements improves vocational and social functioning and overall quality of life.

Purpose

- To explore rehabilitation nurses' experience, and the perceived barriers to and facilitators of patients with SCI requiring neurogenic bowel management.

Results

- A total of 15 participants included 14 female and 1 male aged between 22 and 50 years; years of work experience ranged from 6 months to 26 years.
- After rigorous data analysis and reviews, 4 themes and 10 subthemes were identified.
- Understanding the cultural aspects and meanings of the experiences can help in developing interventions tailored to nurses' requirements for performing neurogenic bowel management for patients with SCI.

Methods

- **Design:** This was a qualitative descriptive study.
- **Participants and setting:** Participants were recruited through purposive sampling from the rehabilitation wards of 1 medical center and 2 regional hospitals in Taiwan.
- **Data collection:** Qualitative data were collected through face-to-face, semi-structured interviews.
- **Data analysis:** Audiotape interviews were transcribed verbatim and data analysis was conducted using the five step thematic content analysis of transcription, meaning units, abstraction, sorting the codes, and theme formulation (Graneheim & Lundman, 2004).
- **Rigors of study:** Four criteria, including credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability, were conducted to evaluate the rigor of the data throughout the research process (Lincoln & Guba 1985; Streubert & Carpenter, 2010).

Table: Themes and Subthemes in This Study

THEME	SUBTHEMES
Reluctant to perform neurogenic bowl management	1 ․ Time-consuming and troublesome care 2 ․ Unpleasant smell 3 ․ Embarrassment regarding sexual imagination
Empathizing with out of self-control situation	1 ․ Feeling Sad for Over Patients' Loss of Control 2 ․ Predicting the Impact of Bowel Accidents Impact on Their Future Lives
Recognizing the Effectiveness of Neurogenic Bowel Management	1 ․ Perceiving the Effectiveness of Feedback 2 ․ Belief in the Benefits of training
Willingness to take action	1 ․ Perceiving Achievements Satisfaction of Being a Helper 2 ․ Realizing the Value of Nursing 3 ․ Identifying the Value of Professionalism