Purpose

Neurogenic bowel dysfunction is a chronic complication hindering function and quality of life for people with spinal cord injury (SCI). Effective bowel regimens are difficult to set up. Current evidence suggests that preventing unpredictable bowel movements improves vocational and social functioning and overall quality of life. The aim of this study was to understand and document the experiences of rehabilitation nurses regarding neurogenic bowel management for patients with SCI.

Methods

A qualitative study was conducted using face-to-face, semi-structured interviews to explore rehabilitation nurses’ descriptions of their experiences of patients with SCI requiring neurogenic bowel management. Participants were recruited through purposive sampling from the rehabilitation wards of 1 medical center and 2 regional hospitals in Taiwan. A total of 15 participants included 14 female and 1 male aged between 22 and 50 years. The average nursing experience was 10.3 years. The audio-taped interviews were transcribed verbatim and standardized through repeated listening by using thematic content analysis. As categories became apparent, statements were grouped under emerging themes. Each unit of analysis was consistent with a theme that emerged.

Results

After rigorous data analysis and reviews, 4 themes and 10 subthemes were identified. The first theme “reluctant to perform neurogenic bowel management” included 3 subthemes: embarrassment regarding sexual imagination, unpleasant smell, and bothersome care. The second theme “empathizing with troubling situations” includes included 2 subthemes: feeling sad for over patients’ loss of control and predicting the effects of bowel accidents on their future lives. The third theme “recognizing the effectiveness of neurogenic bowel management” includes included 3 subthemes: identifying the value of professionalism, perceiving the effectiveness of feedback, and believing in the need for neurogenic bowel management. The fourth theme “willingness to take action” includes included 2 subthemes: perceiving achievements satisfaction of being a helper and realizing the value of nursing.

Conclusion

The findings obtained from the themes illustrated the perceptions of rehabilitation nurses regarding patients with SCI who require neurogenic bowel management. Understanding the cultural aspects and meanings of the experiences can help in developing interventions tailored to nurses’ requirements for performing neurogenic bowl management for patients with SCI.
Title:
Qualitative Study of Nurses’ Experiences of Patients With Spinal Cord Injury Requiring Neurogenic Bowel Management

Keywords:
neurogenic bowel management, qualitative study and spinal cord injury

References:


Abstract Summary:
1. The learners could learn the rehabilitation nurses’ experience for patients with spinal cord injury needing neurogenic bowel management. 2. The learners could learn the perceived barriers to and facilitators of neurogenic bowel management for patients with spinal cord injury.

Content Outline:
1. Introduction:

   Rehabilitation nurse are reluctant to perform bowel care for patients with spinal cord injury. There is a need to know how rehabilitation nurses experiences for patients with spinal cord injury needing neurogenic bowel care.

2. Body

   The qualitative study design using in-depth interviewer was conducted to collect data from 15 rehabilitation nurses at one medical center and two regional hospitals in Taiwan. Four themes and ten subthemes were revealed.

3. Conclusion:

   Understanding the cultural features and the meaning of experiences can help in the development of intervention tailored to the needs of nurses in perform neurogenic bowel management for patients with spinal cord injury.
Primary Presenting Author

Tzu-Jung Wu, MS, RN
Chung Shan Medical University Hospital and School of Nursing, Kaohsiung Medical University
Department of Nursing
Deputy Director
Taichung
Taiwan

Professional Experience: 2015-present: Deputy director of nursing department in Chung Shan Medical University Hospital in Taiwan.1999-present: lecturer, School of Nursing, Chung Shan Medical University.2005-2014: Supervisor of nursing department in Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, Taiwan. 2003-2005: Head nurse of psychiatric ward in Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, Taiwan.1999-2003: Registered nurse of rehabilitation ward in Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, Taiwan. Education: 2015-present: Doctoral student in Kaohsiung Medical University in Taiwan

Author Summary: Tzu-Jung Wu is a deputy director of nursing department in Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, Taiwan. She earned her MS degree from School of Behavior Science, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan in 1999. She is studying in nursing Doctoral program in Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan. Her professional expertise is rehabilitation and psychiatric nursing.

Second Secondary Presenting Author

Corresponding Secondary Presenting Author

Chiu-Chu Lin, PhD, RN
Kaohsiung Medical University
School of Nursing
Professor
Kaohsiung
Taiwan

Professional Experience: Professional Experience: 2013-present -- Professor, College of Nursing, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan 2014-present -- Professor, College of Medicine, Department of Renal Care, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan Education: PhD University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA Major Area of Study, and Year: Health promotion and risk reduction, 2001-2005

Author Summary: Chiu-Chu Lin is a professor of Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan. She earned the doctoral degree from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. Her professional expertise is nephrology nursing and major research areas are focused on instrument development and intervention study in particular, self-management of patients with chronic conditions.

Third Author

Hsiao-Yu Chen, PhD, RN
National Taichung University of Science and Technology
Department of Nursing
Professor
Taichung
Taiwan
Professional Experience: 2011-present -- Professor, College of Health, Department of Nursing, National Taichung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan. -- Education: PhD University of Ulster, UK. Major Area of Study, and Year: Spinal cord injury rehabilitation nursing, 2001-2004.

Author Summary: Hsiao-Yu Chen is a professor of National Taichung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan. She earned the doctoral degree from University of Ulster, UK. Her professional expertise is rehabilitation nursing and community health nursing, major research areas are focused on theory development and intervention study in particular, patients with spinal cord injury.