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.

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).

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.

Table: Themes and Subthemes in This Study

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