Lorestan University of Medical Sciences

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Title:

The Effect of Knowledge Brokering on Nurses' Empathy with Patients Suffering from Cardiovascular disease:
A Knowledge Translation Study

A Thesis

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Abstract

Background: Hospitalization is a scary experience for patients suffering from cardiovascular disease and can produce some negative emotional reactions. These emotions can be managed through nurses' empathy. Empathy is an ethical-professional value and has various positive outcomes. Some evidences indicate a wide gap between empathy theory and practice. Although knowledge brokering is a known intervention to transfer empathy knowledge and to bridge theory and practice gap, this intervention has not used to transfer empathy knowledge yet. In this study, we aim to investigate the effect of knowledge brokering on nurses' empathy towards patients suffering from cardiovascular disease

Methods: The study design is randomized controlled trial. Nurses working in cardiac units were selected as the study population. The quota sampling method was selected. The estimated sample size for each group was 50 individuals. The selected participants assigned to two intervention and comparison groups randomly. Permuted block randomization technique was used in each stratum. To prevent contamination between participants, firstly, the measurements of the comparison group was done. Knowledge brokering intervention was done in 7 stages including individual assessment, scanning the horizon, empathy knowledge management, knowledge translation and exchange, network development, maintenance, and facilitation, facilitating knowledge and skill development, and supporting individual changes by the managers. Monicas' Empathy Construct Self-Rating Scale was used for measuring empathy. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS (version 21) and statistical significance was defined as $P<0.05$.

Results: The effect of knowledge brokering intervention was not affected by baseline empathy scores and experimental group ($P=0.265$). Changes in the nurses' total empathy score during the study was influenced by baseline empathy scores ($p<0.001$) and experimental group ($P=0.042$).

Discussion & Conclusion: The knowledge brokering intervention can be useful to transfer empathy knowledge and develop empathic behaviors in cardiac nurses.

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, Empathy, Knowledge translation, Knowledge Brokering