

The Impact of Knowledge Brokering on Nurses' Empathy with Patients Receiving Cardiac Care: An Experimental Study

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Abstract

Background

Patients with cardiovascular diseases often experience fear of death, depression, and anxiety¹⁻³, all linked to a heightened risk of future cardiac events^{2, 4}. Research indicates that improved empathy is associated with a reduced risk of such events⁵, making enhancing empathy among cardiac nurses crucial. Knowledge brokering, a strategy utilizing various interventions to enhance practice, is key in achieving this.

Objective

To examine the impact of knowledge brokering on nurses' empathy with patients receiving cardiac care.

Methods

This experimental study involved 100 cardiac nurses, randomly assigned to control and intervention groups. The intervention group received knowledge brokering using Dobbin's seven-stage method. Empathy levels were measured using the Empathy Construct Rating Scale, with scores ranging from +252 to -252, and analyzed using SPSS version 21.

Results

Findings showed a significant mean empathy change score (MECS) of 22.90 ± 50.93 in the intervention group ($p = .003$) compared to 7.10 ± 60.20 in the control group ($p = .408$). Notably, nurses with a baseline empathy score ≥ 100 in the intervention group exhibited a significantly higher adjusted MECS than the control group (11.44 units versus -15.42 units).

Conclusions

Knowledge brokering can enhance empathetic behaviors in moderately empathic cardiac nurses, with its effectiveness influenced by the nurses' initial empathy levels.

Keywords: Nurse, Empathy, Compassion, Knowledge brokering, Knowledge brokerage, Knowledge translation, Translational Science, Implementation Science.

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