HAVE WE LOST SIGHT OF THE MIRRORS?

Author Information:
Authors List:
Presenting Author: Wyona Freysteinson
Additional Author: Sandra Cesario

Presenting Author: Wyona Freysteinson
Address: 15919 Mesa Gardens
Houston, Texas 77095
USA
Ph: 281-433-5365
Fax:
Email: wyonaf@comcast.net
Institution: Texas Woman's University

Additional Author: Sandra K. Cesario
Address: 6700 Fannin Street
Houston, Texas 77030-2343
USA
Ph: 713-794-2110
Fax:
Email: SCesario@mail.twu.edu
Institution: Texas Woman's University

Abstract Information
Presentation Preference:
SNRS Podium Presentation

Willing To Submit Poster?
Yes

Abstract Categories:
Interest Group: Administration
Thematic Areas: Women's Health

Introduction:
There is little known research in nursing or in hospital design on mirrors. This article reports the results of a survey of the mirrors in patient rooms in ten hospitals. The survey focused on the mirrors within rooms where women with breast cancer who have had a partial or complete mastectomy may stay after surgery.

Method(s):
Mirrors in an empty patient room in each of ten hospitals were surveyed. The hospitals ranged in size from fewer than 200 beds to having over 900 beds. The mix included teaching hospitals, specialty hospitals, community based hospitals, and hospitals with magnet status.

Results:
This hospital mirror survey has revealed there is little to no congruence among hospitals in placement of mirrors on units where women with breast cancer stay following surgery. Mirrors for the bed bound, mirrors allowing for a view of the whole body, and privacy were not available in the majority of hospitals in this study.

Discussion:
Discussion is centred on following questions: In our quest to bring the home to the hospital, do we dare bring the mirrors too? In offering or having mirrors available, do we offer time for silent reflection, an opportunity to begin to appropriate the altered body to the self, and a way for the healing to begin? Should patients who have had a mastectomy wait to view their surgical sites in a mirror when they return home? What is the potential of negative emotions, shock, and falls should patients need to stand on a chair in a hospital restroom to see their chest area? What mirrors may be appropriate for the hospital room? Does this survey point to a need for further mirror research in the field.
Research Completed: Yes
Abstract History: NA
Financial Disclosure: Have a financial arrangement or affiliation with commercial companies whose products may be mentioned in this material?
   No
FDA Disclosure: Cleared: Yes
Non-Exclusive License: Accepted Terms: Yes
Submitted By: wyonaf@comcast.net