C6.0: Innovative Use of Single Subject Experimental Methods in Clinical Research

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Abstract:
Overview: “Single Subject Experimental” (SSE) research methodology including what has been referred to as “Single Case Experimental Design” provides opportunities for nurse researchers to answer important, clinically relevant research questions with diverse groups over a variety of research settings. Many of these questions cannot be adequately addressed by more traditional research approaches due to the type of research questions, small sample size, preliminary nature or the work, heterogeneous samples, and/or violations of other assumptions that would, under usual circumstances, limit internal and external validity. Thus, the purpose of this symposium is to provide an overview of innovative SSE methodology, including its historical roots as well as a discussion of strengths and limitations. Following this overview, four investigators will provide examples from their own completed and/or ongoing research to illustrate a variety of ways this methodology can be used to build programs of research in patients across the lifespan. The first project evaluates medication effects in children with autism using an ABA (introduction/withdrawal) design. The second assesses the efficacy of a newly developed exercise program in heart failure patients using an innovative combination of between group design (i.e. control/experimental groups) with a single subject design within the experimental arm (i.e. withdrawal, multiple baseline), while the last two evaluate two different interventions and research designs (changing criterion and multiple baseline) for evaluating acupressure in older adults. The symposium is designed to stimulate participants to think “outside the box” when identifying researchable questions and designing rigorous research plans. The session will conclude with a discussion of how this methodology can be used to build meaningful programs of research and advance nursing science.

Abstract History:
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No Answer

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