G4.3: Overcoming the Challenge of Promoting Personhood among Nursing Home Residents Living with Dementia

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Abstract:
Introduction: The purpose of this pretest-posttest, quasi-experimental study was to evaluate the effect of individualized/person-centered life history collages on nursing staff knowledge about individual residents living with dementia (RLWD) and subsequently, nursing staff perceptions of person-centered care (PCC) practices. Based on Kitwood’s Theory of Personhood, improved knowledge and perceptions of RLWD may lead to improved personhood status, implying improved recognition, respect and trust.

Method(s): The principal investigator recruited a convenience sample of 36 nursing staff members (18 experimental and 18 control), who cared for 5 RLWD in two similar nursing homes. Open-ended questionnaires were utilized to assess three categories of nursing staff knowledge about individual RLWD: 1) family, 2) jobs/career, and 3) past and current likes/dislikes/interests. In addition, nursing staff perceptions of PCC practices were assessed with the “Staff-based Measures of Individualized Care” (SBMIC) instrument. The SBMIC includes Likert-type scales to measure the following perceptions of PCC practices: 1) knowing the person/resident, 2) staff-to-resident communication, and 3) staff-to-staff communication. Intervention staff members were exposed to Life History Collages for a period of 4 weeks. Essentially, each collage was designed to illustrate a resident’s past life through individualized photos and text. It was postulated that nursing staff’s exposure to life history collages would improve staff knowledge and perceptions of individual RLWD, thereby overcoming the challenge of elevating nursing staff respect for personhood status. Pre-test, post-test, and 3 weeks post-intervention data were analyzed with multivariate analysis of covariance and analysis of covariance statistical methods.
Results: Compared to the control group, intervention group knowledge, on the set of three mean knowledge levels (family, jobs/careers, and likes/dislikes/interests), improved significantly posttest \[F(3, 26) = 6.80, p < .01\], and 3 weeks post-intervention \[F(3, 23) = 9.85, p < .001\]. Intervention group perceptions, however, did not change significantly at posttest \[F(3, 26) = 1.44, p = .25\], or 3 weeks post-intervention \[F(3, 23) = 1.52, p = .24\].

Discussion & Conclusions: Potential reasons for insignificant findings in perceptions of PCC practices are explored and suggestions for future research are discussed.

Abstract History:
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

Financial Disclosure:
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