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Title: Attitudes and practice of psychiatric nurses toward the use of physical restraints on psychogeriatric patients in a mental hospital

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in the four psycho geriatric wards of a mental Hospital A to explore the attitudes and practice of psychiatric nurses toward the use of physical restraint on psychogeriatric patients in Hong Kong. The subjects included all available samples that was, all qualified nurses working in the psycho geriatric wards of Hospital A. Ward managers, psychiatric nursing officers, Registered psychiatric nurses and Enrolled psychiatric nurses were included except Department Operation Manager (DOM) because DOM was a purely administrative staff who was not required to work in frontline. 41 questionnaires were distributed and 36 questionnaires were returned. The respondent rate was 87.8%.

A questionnaire was used as research instrument that was originally developed by Janelli, Kanski, Scherer, and Neary (1991) and was further modified by Scherer, Janelli, Wu and Kuhn (1993). The questionnaire was designed to elicit information regarding demographic and professional characteristics, nursing practice, and attitudes toward the use of restraints. The data was analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics with the aid of "Statistical Package for Social Science" for Windows (Student Version 9.0). The results indicated that respondents had therapeutic practice and slightly positive attitudes on the restraint use. Significant relationship existed between practice scores and year of clinical experience ($r_s = .420$, $p = .013$, $N = 34$).

The findings of the study had important implications for nurse education, manpower planning, and policy making on restraint of psychogeriatric patients.