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Title: Self-evaluation of intensive care nurses' self-confidence and competence in caring for critically ill patients' families

Abstract

Family care was a common addressed difficulties in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) environment. It was because the patients in ICU were always critically ill with grave condition. The families of the patients were always in psychological crisis and demanded a strong support from the healthcare professionals. Nurses were considered as the appropriate persons who act the role and took the responsibilities, therefore, it was value to study how the nurses perceived their roles. Self-confidence is critical to successful nursing practice, lack of self-confidence often result in failure (Davidhizar, 1993). Being a confident critical care nurses' holds the key to build a trustful nurse-family relationship and giving psychological support the families.

The purpose of this descriptive study was to explore the critical care nurse's self-valued level of confidence in caring the families of critically ill patients. Their perceived difficulty was also addressed sixty-five critical care nurses from an adult ICU participated in the study. They responded to a two-part questionnaire with the demographic section and the modified research instrument section. The result showed that the majority of critical care nurse positively perceived their role and responsibility on caring the distressed family, however they had a low level of confidence in comforting the family ($M=2.23$). The result showed that the level of confidence had significant relationship with the nurses' clinical experience and their perceived knowledge adequacy. To assist critical care nurses in building their confidence, continuing effective education, encouragement and experience sharing from nursing administer, and further research were recommended as beneficial strategies.