

EXPERIENCED NURSING ROLES AND FUNCTIONS IN REHABILITATION AFTER STROKE

Background

- Focus on in-patient rehabilitation has changed towards shortened length of stay at the hospital, ascending specialisation between hospitals and increasing involvement of the patient as a subject with individual values and needs
- Despite the patient's need for rehabilitation nursing care to reduce the consequences of disease, minimise impairments and prevent complications, the description of specific contributions appears sparse.

Method

- Focus group interviews with nurses affiliated to three different institutions conducting rehabilitation after stroke.
- A phenomenological hermeneutic approach influenced by Ricoeur's philosophy of interpretation consisting of three levels: a naive reading, a structural analysis, and a critical analysis and discussion

Aim

- To describe the nurses' experienced roles and functions during in-hospital rehabilitation after stroke

Preliminary findings

Naive reading - Spontaneous impression of how nurses described roles and functions:

- Detailed and in-depth knowledge to the patient and his life before the injury
- Prediction and obligation of the patient's basic needs at all hours
- The patient's solicitor in planning and coordinating efforts towards an everyday life
- Creating an environment in order to improve intimacy and well-being
- Strong competency is essential in relation to influence the interdisciplinary teamwork

Structural analysis – Two themes emerged from the data:

- Nurses' role and function to patient's needs around the clock - 24/7
 - Knowing the human behind the patient, establishing a strong relation, supporting through grief and transition, basic nursing care around the clock to patient's and relatives
- The nurses' role in the interdisciplinary team
 - Coordination of care and treatment and being the patient's representative
 - Mutual recognition among professions in the team is essential, as well as structure and ideology in the organisation
- Critical analysis and discussion is still ongoing

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