

Abstract Submission for Concurrent Session/Poster Presentation in English

Clinical care, patient safety and quality

THE ESSENCE OF BEAUTY IN NURSING FROM THE PATIENTS' PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract Content: The purpose of this study is to understand the essence of beauty in nursing from the patients' perspectives. The results can be used as a reference in raising the appreciation of beauty in nursing, and in advancing the quality of patient care. A good understanding of the essence of beauty in nursing can help nurses improve their delivery of care for patients, however very few studies are available on this particular yet important topic. A descriptive phenomenological method was used to explore the essence of beauty in nursing. Unstructured one-to-one in-depth interviews were utilized for the data collection. Each interview lasted approximately 1-2 hours. Participants were selected by purposive sampling. Participants included inpatients and outpatients who had been taken care of by nurses. The interviews were focused on the patient's perception of the essence of beauty in nursing. Narratives were analyzed through Colaizzi's (1978) seven steps method. Data saturation was achieved after interviewing 18 patients. Three themes and seven sub-themes were identified. These included: physical beauty (the beauty of smiles, neatness and personal hygiene), emotional beauty (the beauty of caring and mental supporting), and professional beauty (the beauty of professional knowledge, skills and professional dedication). The essence of beauty in nursing from the patients' point view through the research findings provided a thorough insight into how patients view their nurses in terms of physical beauty as well as emotional and professional beauty. The results could be used as a teaching and reference tool to raise the standard of nursing care and eventually the quality of patient care.

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