

Relationship of Nurse-Patient Communication on The Correct Use Of Contraception Among Patients In The Ob Ward

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the study was to find the relationship between the process of nurse-patient communication and the correct use of contraceptives during the period of hospitalization of women in the Obstetrics Unit of a provincial hospital in Albay. The study aimed to determine patients' knowledge of contraceptive methods and communication barriers, and to assess whether communication quality affects contraceptive use. The study used a descriptive-correlational design, and postpartum patients were surveyed. The data collected were analyzed using frequency and percentage distribution, weighted mean calculation, as well as Spearman rank correlation and analysis. The results of the analysis showed that the respondents demonstrated quite good knowledge with respect to the use of contraception, because the highest correlation was achieved in terms of knowledge and awareness of patients regarding contraception. However, the question of misconceptions and the availability of contraception still remains unsolved. Other results indicated that some correlation exists between the quality of communication between nurse and patient and the experience of using contraception. The study identified obstacles to effective communication, such as receiving different information, differing perceptions of problems, language barriers, and difficulty asking questions. The study highlighted the need to develop nurse-led communication programs.

Keywords: Nurse-patient communication, contraception, contraceptive knowledge

INTRODUCTION

The communication between nurses and patients is an important part of quality health care, particularly in reproductive health services. Patients must understand the information nurses provide about family planning and contraception services in obstetric wards so they can make informed decisions. Nurses are the ones who provide patients with information on contraception through their effective communication and counseling. This way, they explain to people all available contraceptives and their usage rules and side effects. Although reproductive health care has made progress in recent years, there are still some obstacles on the way to achieving proper understanding and usage of contraceptive methods. Communication difficulties, terminology barriers, limited health information, and cultural beliefs may cause misunderstandings and mistakes. Nevertheless, previous studies have shown that quality communication between nurse and patient is very important for proper understanding, adherence, and decision-making.

Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to determine the effect of nurse-patient communication on the correct use of contraception among OB ward patients. Specifically, the study sought to determine the demographic profile of respondents, assess their understanding of contraception, identify communication barriers, establish the relationship between nurse-patient communication and correct contraceptive use, and propose an intervention program based on the findings.

Scope and Delimitations

The main aim of this study was to analyze how nurse-patient communication helps patients use contraception correctly and to understand and overcome the impediments to such communication. The study also examined participants' background profiles and the relationship between communication quality and contraceptive practices. This study concentrated on postpartum women in the obstetrics department and employed self-reporting techniques. Therefore, the research conclusions should not be generalized.

Review of Related Literature

The literature shows that nurse-patient communication plays a significant role in facilitating patient education, health literacy, adherence, and informed decision-making. According to Hoglander et al. (2023), when nurses provide clear explanations, patients are more likely to understand and follow healthcare instructions. Effective communication also helps establish trust between healthcare professionals and patients. Babaii et al. 2021 argued that empathy in communication makes patients willing to share their worries and actively participate in the decision-making process. Communication barriers stemming from cultural background, language, and education can undermine the effectiveness of the communication process. Al-Kalaldeh et al. (2025) highlighted demographic and organizational factors that may act as barriers to this communication. Patient-centered communication allows healthcare professionals to share information that matches patients' needs and educational level. According to Kwame and Petrucka 2021, the communication process promotes necessary decision-making. Many researchers have overlooked the issue of nurse-patient communication with regard to contraceptive use among OB patients.

Theoretical Framework

This study was based on Peplau's Interpersonal Relations Theory and Orem's Self-Care Deficit Theory. Peplau's Theory emphasizes the importance of the therapeutic relationship between nurses and patients. Communication is the basis for establishing ties with patients, identifying their needs, educating them, and ensuring the necessary treatment outcomes. Orem's Theory focuses on people's ability to perform health-related self-care activities. In this case, patients need the necessary knowledge and skills and must use the methods correctly. In conclusion, all theories used in this research confirm the statement that effective nurse-patient communication increases contraceptive knowledge and use.

Conceptual Framework

This study presents the conceptual framework which shows the interplay of three important elements: input, process, and output.

Input. It consists of the demographic profile of the respondents, including age, Sex, Civil Status, socioeconomic status, Educational Attainment, Number of Children, Contraceptive Use, Preference Language/Dialect. The Current level of understanding of the correct use of contraception among patients in the OB ward, along with contraceptive awareness and knowledge, Proper usage of Contraception, Effectiveness and Side Effects, Accessibility and availability, and Misconceptions about contraception. The relationship between the quality of nurse-patient communication in obstetric wards and patients' correct use of contraception, and lastly, the communication barriers patients face in understanding and using contraception in the obstetrics ward.

Process. The process involves collecting data through a questionnaire; analyzing and interpreting the data; testing for significance; and formulating the study output.

Output. The output of the study is a program to improve nurse-patient communication on the correct use of contraception, based on the study findings.

The **feedback loop** provides a mechanism for a continuous supply of information that can explain the study process.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study utilized a descriptive-correlational research design to determine the relationship between nurse-patient communication and correct contraceptive use among OB ward patients. The descriptive component described respondents' demographic characteristics, contraceptive understanding, and communication barriers, while the correlational component examined whether communication quality was associated with correct contraceptive practices.

Research Steps

Data were collected using a researcher-developed questionnaire consisting of three sections: demographic profile; level of understanding regarding correct contraceptive use; and Communication barriers in contraceptive use. The questionnaire utilized a four-point Likert scale ranging from Very Good/Strongly Agree to Very Poor/Strongly Disagree.

Data Collection and Sample Selection

The data were collected using a questionnaire; the respondents consisted of 84 postpartum patients admitted to the Obstetric Ward of a provincial hospital in Albay. Total population sampling was utilized, including eligible patients who were physically stable, capable of providing informed consent, and willing to participate.

Data Analysis Methods

Frequency and percentage distribution were used to summarize demographic characteristics. Weighted mean and standard deviation were used to determine respondents' level of understanding regarding contraception and communication barriers. Spearman Rank

Correlation was employed to determine the relationship between nurse-patient communication quality and correct contraceptive use.

Research Hypotheses and Validation

The study tested the null hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between the quality of nurse-patient communication in obstetric wards and the correct use of contraception among patients. The results were validated using inferential statistics.

Study Limitations and Ethical Considerations

Ethical principles were observed throughout the research process. Participation was voluntary, informed consent was obtained, and confidentiality of respondents' information was maintained. The study followed ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, veracity, fidelity, accountability, and confidentiality.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SOP 1. Respondents' Demographic Profile

The majority of the respondents were people who belong to reproductive age, including the age group of 18-30 years. Most of them were married and had a low socioeconomic status. Respondents used local dialects while communicating. Contraceptive pills and injections were among the most popular contraceptive means.

SOP 2. Level of Understanding on Correct Use of Contraception

Results revealed that respondents had a good overall understanding of correct contraceptive use, obtaining an overall weighted mean of 3.07 (SD=0.73). Among the dimensions, contraceptive awareness and knowledge obtained the highest rating: Awareness and Knowledge – 3.29 (Very Good), Proper Usage – 3.11 (Good), Effectiveness and Side Effects – 3.17 (Good), Accessibility and Availability – 3.01 (Good), Misconceptions – 2.75 (Good). The findings suggest that respondents were knowledgeable regarding available contraceptive methods; however, misconceptions and concerns regarding side effects and accessibility remained areas needing improvement.

SOP 3. Relationship Between Nurse-Patient Communication and Correct Use of Contraception

Spearman Rank Correlation revealed a significant positive relationship between nurse-patient communication quality and correct contraceptive use. Nurse-Patient Communication and Correct Use of Contraception at, 0.676, <0.001 which is a Significant Strong Positive Relationship. The result indicates that improved nurse-patient communication is associated with better contraceptive understanding and practices. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected.

SOP 4. Communication Barriers in Contraception Use

The overall communication barrier score obtained a mean of 2.68 (SD=0.70), interpreted as Agree. The most common barriers identified were: Receiving conflicting information (2.81) Information being too technical (2.78) Feeling uncomfortable asking questions (2.76) These findings suggest that patients may experience difficulty understanding contraceptive information when explanations are complex, inconsistent, or when they hesitate to communicate concerns.

SOP 5. Output of the Study

CARE-CONTRACEPT: A Nurse-Led Communication Enhancement Program for Improving the Correct Use of Contraception Among Obstetric Ward Patients.

SUMMARY

The study determined that nurse-patient communication significantly influences correct contraceptive use among OB ward patients. Respondents demonstrated good understanding of contraception; however, misconceptions and communication barriers remained evident. The findings established that effective communication is essential in improving contraceptive knowledge, confidence, and decision-making.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings, the study concluded that: OB ward patients possess good knowledge regarding contraceptive methods and practices. Communication barriers continue to affect patients' understanding and utilization of contraception. Nurse-patient communication has a significant positive relationship with correct contraceptive use. Improving communication strategies may enhance contraceptive counseling and reproductive health outcomes. A structured communication enhancement program is necessary to strengthen nursing interventions in family planning services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended to provide nurses and medical practitioners with courses on how to communicate successfully with patients. Moreover, hospitals should create educational materials in the native culture and language.

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AI DECLARATION STATEMENT

AI-supported tools were utilized only for grammar enhancement, organization, and structural improvement of the manuscript. No AI tools were used in data collection, statistical analysis, or interpretation of research findings. All research processes and academic contributions remain the responsibility of the researcher.

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