

Attitudes of Women About Presence of a Male Nursing Student During Birthing Process

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Background

- Of 1,537.6 maternal-child health nurses only 3.1 were men (*Journal of Nursing Regulations*, 2016)
- Discriminated against because of negative stereotypes that men are overly sexual, nursing is feminine, and caring does not come naturally to men (O'Connor, 2015; Rowlinson, 2013; Yilmaz & Polat, 2020)

Introduction

Why do women choose to deny care from a male nursing student during the labor, delivery, or recovery process at obstetric clinicals?

Theory

- The perception of men as overly sexual is the most persuasive factor in a woman allowing a male nursing student to care for her during the birthing process

Hypothesis

- Ha1 = The patient's perception of a man's touch as inappropriate affects a woman's decision to accept care from a male nursing student during labor, delivery, or recovery (LDR)
- H10 = There is no relationship between the woman's perception of a man's touch and the decision to allow care from a male nursing student during LDR.
- Ha2 = The partner's opinion influences a woman's decision to refuse care from a male nursing student during LDR.
- H20 = There is no relationship between the partner's opinion and the woman's decision on accepting care from a male nursing student during LDR.
- Ha3 = Feeling embarrassed to receive care by a male, during a vulnerable time, influences a woman's decision to deny care from a male nursing student during LDR.
- H30 = There is no relationship between being embarrassed to receive care by a male and a woman's decision to deny care from a male nursing student during LDR.
- Ha4 = Believing a nurse's gender should be female versus male affects a woman's decision on not allowing care from a male nursing student during LDR>
- H40 = There is no relationship between believing a nurse should be a female rather than a male and a woman's decision on allowing care from a male nursing student during LDR>

Purpose

- Test the hypotheses that the stereotypical-oversexualization of men's behaviors impacts a woman's decision

Materials and Methods

Materials

- 5-Point Likert Scale survey, developed by the researcher, on Survey Monkey
- Face Validity of the survey was obtained using a three-member panel

Data Collection

- Collection lasted nine days
- Administered via email and social media

Population

- Women 18 years and older
- Women on Facebook
- Women faculty and staff at Missouri Southern State University

Data Analysis

- SPSS Statistics was used to complete a logistical regression analysis

Results

348 Valid Respondents

- The mean age was 38
- The mode education level was a Bachelor's Degree
- The dominant ethnicity was White
- The dominant religion was Christianity
- 62% were married and 65% had given birth previous

Analysis of Male Nursing Student Observation During Birth

- Perception of a male nurse's touch as inappropriate: p-value .001; Exp(B) 0.651
- Embarrassment from being cared for by a male nursing student: p-value .000; Exp(B) 0.588
- Age: p-value .037; Exp(B) 0.965
- Attitude about care provided by a nursing student: p-value .000; Exp(B) 2.019

Analysis of Male Nursing Student Observation During Labor

- Embarrassment from being cared for by a male nursing student: p-value .000; Exp(B) 0.646
- Partner's opinion of care given by a male nursing student: p-value .027; Exp(B) 0.819
- Attitude about care provided by nursing students: p-value .013; Exp(B) 1.311

Analysis of Male Nursing Student Observation During Delivery

- Embarrassment from being cared for by a male nursing student: p-value .000; Exp(B) 0.555
- Attitude about care provided by a nursing student: p-value .000; Exp(B) 1.706

Analysis of Male Nursing Student Observation During Recovery

- Embarrassment from being cared for by a male nursing student: p-value .000; Exp(B) 0.636
- Partner's opinion of care given by male nursing student: p-value .012; Exp(B) 0.738
- Attitude about care provided by nursing students: p-value .003; Exp(B) 1.537

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Conclusion

Significance

- Feeling embarrassment from receiving care from a male nursing student and a woman's attitude about nursing students are the most important factor in a woman accepting care from a male nursing student.
- The effect of a woman's perception of touch as inappropriate is not statistically significant in the labor, delivery, or recovery categories.
- The partner's opinion influencing a woman's decision is only relevant during the labor and recovery stage.
- The number of times a woman has given birth and the belief that women make better nurses did not make a significant impact on the woman's decision.
 - Male nursing students will be able to learn through first-hand experience at obstetric clinicals
 - Woman will have skilled male nurses providing care
 - Help male nurses/students understand why women are reluctant to accept or deny care

Limitations

- Convenience sample
- Interacting variables that were not considered
- Face validity was based off experts' opinions

Future Research

Target a more heterogenous population and include exclusion criteria so that only pregnant women would be eligible to participate. Researchers could survey women in every trimester of pregnancy and during and after labor. Use a focus group consisting of women, who fit the population, to determine face validity of the survey.

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