

23rd World Nursing and Healthcare Conference

July 10-12, 2017 Berlin, Germany

Attentional bias toward emotional stimuli in accidentally injured Chinese patients with different posttraumatic growth levels

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Extensive evidence has been obtained that supports an association between an attentional bias toward negative stimuli and vulnerability to stress-related psychopathology. Little is known regarding whether biased attention toward positive stimuli relates to mental health and posttraumatic growth (PTG). The current study investigated whether accidentally injured Chinese patients who had different levels of PTG showed different patterns of attentional bias toward either positive or negative stimuli. A sample of 202 patients completed questionnaires measuring PTG and the modified dot-probe task. Participants were split in three groups based on the 20th percentile on the Posttraumatic Growth Inventory: high-PTG, medium-PTG and low-PTG. Patients who scored low levels on the PTGI did not exhibit attentional bias toward negative or positive stimuli, patients with medium levels of PTG had difficulty disengaging attention from negative stimuli, and finally, patients with high levels of PTG had difficulty disengaging attention from positive stimuli. An implication of this finding is that the understanding of information processing biases in PTG and therefore suggest a novel target for prevention and treatment interventions, such as attentional bias training addressing stress-related psychopathology.

The work of the rehabilitation nurse after catastrophe: earthquake in Haiti

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On January 12, 2010 the earth trembled. Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti, has been reduced to rubble. About 220,500 people died and 500,000 were left homeless (1). Immediately, informal caregivers appeared people without basic training to act with the population, who call themselves nurses, rehabilitation technicians, rehabilitators. Rehabilitation, such as nursing care should be developed with precociousness, in this case at the scene of the tragedy. Many people with disabilities need rehabilitation especially in situations of natural disasters. The literature (1, 2) presents the work of nurses from different countries focused on wound care, emergency and surgical assistance in the event of catastrophes. This work presents a Brazilian experience with emphasis on catastrophe rehabilitation, through the training of informal rehabilitation agents in Haiti, and the discussion of the transcultural factors involved in the educational process of these human resources. The objective of this work is to report the experience of a rehabilitation nurse in the training of human resources in Haiti. Post-earthquake relief efforts have attracted a significant number of foreign health professionals, and at least 90% of the population has close access to health care (only 60% had access before the earthquake). The rehabilitation nurse has the technical and attitudinal competence, derived from his / her practice and academic practice, to implement quality assistance to people with physical disabilities, either in hospitalization units, outpatient clinics and at home. These characteristics make it eligible both for specialized assistance and for the conduct of educational programs aimed at empowering professionals and community agents.