

JOINT EVENT

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Being a male nurse in oncology clinic: A qualitative study

Ayşe Cal A and Mukerrem Kabatas Yildiz
Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey

Statement of the Problem: In Turkish society, nursing profession is identified with the female gender. Analysis of the experiences male nurses working within the cultural structure of our society get while they are giving health care services is important in developing the quality of health care services. Within this context, the study was conducted to assess the role and contributions of male nurses in providing health care to oncology patients and their families.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: The study has a qualitative research design. The sample of the study consists of 6 male nurses working in oncology clinic and 19 female nurses working in the same service who were determined with purposive sampling method. Semi-structured interview form was used and a total of 25 nurses were interviewed through in-depth interview method. The data were analyzed with inductive method by using content analysis method.

Findings: Average age of the nurses interviewed was (min:20; max:45), 70.2% were female, 62.5% were single, 58.3% had bachelor's degree and the average of the years they worked in the oncology service was 2.89 (min:1 years; max:9 years). All the participants stated that it was suitable for male nurses to work in oncology clinic and a great majority emphasized that they made positive contributions to health team. The data obtained because of interviews were grouped under themes and sub-themes of "patients' points of view", "psychosocial care needs" and "effects on the oncology team".

Conclusions & Significance: In providing health care service, the experiences of oncology nurses associated with their male colleagues are mostly positive. When it is considered that the number of male nurses is increasing each day in health care service, the results of the study are pleasing. In addition, it is thought that sharing the results with the society and health workers will contribute to positive structuring of the existing social perception for male nurses.

Biography

Ayşe Cal A received her PhD in Public Health Nursing from Dokuz Eylül the University, Turkey in 2017. She has her expertise in Public Health Nursing. She has been working in Faculty of Health Sciences as a Postdoctoral Research Assistant at Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey. Her work focuses on cancer care, home care, quality of life, secondary lymphedema, qualitative and quantitative nursing research.

aysecaloglu@hotmail.com

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