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Evidence-based protocol for managing feeding difficulties for residents with dementia

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In order to promote the health and well-being among demented older adults, providing adequate assistance in feeding and hydration is crucial in maintaining good residential care. An evidence-based protocol for health worker is essential to promote their knowledge and guide them to manage feeding difficulties among residents with dementia. The overall goal for managing feeding difficulties among residents with dementia is to maintain social interaction with cultural consideration. Besides, ensure adequate oral intake and preserve dignity & quality of life are also the goal of care. The specific objectives of this protocol are (1) To provide a supportive environment for feeding, (2) To identify the reasons of feeding difficulties, (3) To manage the feeding difficulties with appropriate measures and (4) To evaluate the effectiveness of these measures. Based on the objectives set for the protocol, several expected outcomes would be measured. First, the caregivers would be competent to implement the nursing intervention, monitor and record the eating and feeding behaviors of the residents with dementia. Second, nutritional status and feeding behaviors of the residents with dementia would be assessed and recorded correctly. To evaluate the effectiveness of the protocol, different data would be collected in a weekly basis. For the nutritional status of the resident with dementia, BMI and MNA would be collected. For the appropriateness of using the protocol; oral intake, types of feeding difficulties and appropriate nursing intervention used would be recorded and evaluate by principle intervener.

Biography

Yuet Ying Wong is pursuing her doctoral degree in The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is a Senior Lecturer in the division of Nursing and Health Studies of OUHK. She has ten years clinical experience in community and gerontology nursing and five years teaching experience in university. Her research interest is gerontological care and quality of life.

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