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The relationship among psychotic symptoms, self-stigma, and perceived dignity in schizophrenia patients

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The perceived dignity affect patients' self-esteem and quality. This cross-sectional correlation study aimed to examine the correlations among the psychotic symptoms, self-stigma, and perceived dignity of patients with schizophrenia. We employed convenience sampling at psychiatric hospitals and clinics located in Eastern Taiwan. After excluding patients with schizophrenia associated with dementia or mental retardation, 202 schizophrenia patients were recruited. We adopted a self-report questionnaire, which comprised demographic data, the Perceived Psychiatric Stigma Scale, and dignity instrument. The Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) was also used to conduct semi-structural interview. The hierarchical multiple regression was performed to examine the important predictors for the perceived dignity of patients with schizophrenia. The following results were obtained: The patients who exhibited significant negative symptoms and general psychopathology perceived a low level of dignity; After controlling for the positive syndrome, negative syndrome, and general psychopathology derived from the PANSS in the three-level hierarchical regression model, we determined that years of education, negative symptom, and self-stigma were the critical predictors for patients' perceived dignity. According to the results, we provided the following recommendations: (a) Nurses should provide additional information and skills, such as social skill training, for patients to mitigate the influence exerted by the negative symptoms; and (b) Care models on destigmatization should be provided for patients to elevate their perceived dignity and further improve their health.

Biography

Shiou-Rung Lin has completed her Master's from National Yang-Ming University. She is currently serving as a Head Nurse.

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