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Nurses social representation of their profession and professional practice

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This presentation is about a comparative study between France and Gabon. It approaches what female nurses share of their profession and their professional practices. This study, with nurses (French: 103; Gabonese: 140), is based on the theory of social representations, with a free association task around the target term "nurse". It is completed by questions concerning the valence of each of the spontaneously produced terms. The participants were also asked to fill in 20 five point Likert-type scales measuring the type of behavior and relationship with their patients; this instrument covers two dimensions: the behavior focuses more on the relation with patients or more on the technical "taking care of", with the same number of positive items and negative ones for each of the two dimensions. The data shows that both French and Gabonese nurses share in the center of the social representation of their profession the idea of "taking care of" (French: 70%; Gabonese 63.6%). But, what differs is that, for almost half of the Gabonese nurses, it is completed by the importance of "welcoming" (46.4%) the patients, whereas for the French nurses it is followed by "listening" (29%), "empathy" and "relation" (for 23% of the nurses). Concerning their practice with patients, the Gabonese nurses obtain a higher score in favor of the relational dimension (Gabonese relational score=3.88; French relational score=2.74). These results will be discussed in terms of the social representations of the profession in connection to their professional practices.

Biography

Christine Roland-Lévy has completed her PhD at la Sorbonne University in 1980. She then held a position of Senior Lecturer at the University of Paris Descartes for 20 years and now holds a tenured position as a full Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France. She published 50 papers in international academic journals. She is currently the President of the Consortium of French Psychology Associations, A-CIPA, and the President-Elect of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP).

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The benefits of quantifying the parent product plus its urinary metabolites when conducting occupational exposure assessments to antineoplastic drugs

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Urine samples are collected to determine the body burden of healthcare workers exposed to antineoplastic drugs. However, many studies are limited in that only a fraction of the drug is eliminated unchanged. Given this, researchers have suggested that both the parent product and its metabolites should be quantified. The purpose of this study was to compare body burden levels for the parent product alone (cyclophosphamide or CP) with the levels of CP plus its metabolites. Participants were from six healthcare facilities in the Vancouver area. Participants were asked to provide 24-hour urine samples and the output volume was estimated. The urine was analyzed for CP and three of its metabolites, 4-ketocyclophosphamide, carboxyphosphamide, and N-dechloroethylcyclophosphamide by HPLC-MS/MS. The results were reported as mass of contaminant (in ng) per 24 hours. We obtained 201 urine samples. When looking strictly at the parent product, the average concentration of CP was 285 ng/24 hours. Comparatively, the average concentration of CP plus its metabolites was 2,158 ng/24 hours. Our results suggest that analyzing for CP plus its metabolites provides a more accurate reflection of the overall body burden. The average concentration of CP represented about 13% of the concentration of CP plus its metabolites. This is consistent with reports that <20% of the administered dose of CP is eliminated unchanged in the urine. We therefore recommend that future studies, which assess occupational exposure to antineoplastic drug via urine samples, quantify the parent product and its metabolites.

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