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Nurse anaesthetist students' experiences of patient dignity in perioperative practice

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Aim: To describe how nurse anaesthetist students experienced patient dignity in perioperative practice.

Design: A hermeneutical design and the critical incident technique were used in order to obtain experiences from practice.

Method: In the autumn of 2015, after participating in a mandatory lecture on ethics, 23 nurse anaesthetist students reported their experiences and interpretation concerning violation and preservation of patients' dignity in the operating theatre. The text, which was a compilation of descriptions of a 35 incidents, was analysed by using a hermeneutical text interpretation.

Findings: The text revealed three main themes preserving patients' dignity; allocating time for the patient, inviting the patient to participate, and shielding the patient's body. Furthermore, three main themes of dignity violation were identified; alienation, backbiting, and invasion of the body's intimate sphere.

Conclusion: Discussion and reflection based on the personal experience of the students during their practice are ways to strengthen ethical awareness and promote an ethical and dignified caring culture.

Biography

Berit Taraldsen Valeberg is an Associate Professor and Head of Studies - Area of responsibility 7 at Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway.

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