

Pediatric nurses' views on the potential use of robots

Hwey-Fang Liang

Chang Gung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan

With technology's continued rapid development and widespread implementation, the use of robotics and artificial intelligence in healthcare has gradually become a global trend. Technological-information literacy and AI informatics skills have become major prerequisites for nurses. The purpose of this study is to describe pediatric nurses' views on the potential use of robots. A qualitative descriptive design was employed. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 23 nursing staff who worked in the pediatric unit. The interviews were audiotaped, transcribed and analyzed using qualitative content analysis. Three themes emerged related to the nurses' views on the potential use of robots in the pediatric unit (1) care impact-advantages, which included: (a) reducing healthcare providers' workload and (b) adequately meeting the needs of pediatric patients and their families; (2) care impact-shortcomings, which included: (a) deficiency of individualized care and (b) reduced employment opportunities for skilled nursing staff; and (3) attitude impact, including (a) lifelong learning and (b) integrating culture and technology to meet pediatric care needs. Robots' application may ameliorate the overall quality of pediatric care, allowing for better apportioning of nurses' time and energies to focus on direct patient care and reducing nurses' workloads. However, some possible disadvantages need attention, including robots' inability to provide genuine human touch, demonstrate human emotions associated with pediatric care, and exhibit culture sensitivity. It is desirable to embed nursing practice needs in the advanced functions of robots and thereby ensure safe, reliable robotics suitable for pediatric care usage.

Biography

Hwey-Fang Liang has completed her PhD in School of Nursing from Duquesne University, PA, USA. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing in Chang Gung University of Science and Technology in Taiwan. She has published more than 40 papers in reputed journals with English and Chinese and still concentrate herself in nursing research.

cycheng@mail.cgu.edu.tw