

BOOK REVIEWS

Nursing Research: A quantitative and qualitative approach

by Carol A Roberts and Sharon O Burke. Jones and Bartlett Publishers: Boston. 1989. 381 pages. ISBN 0-86720-415-X

This book will help nursing students, clinical nurses, beginning nurse researchers and even advanced nurse researchers to understand and evaluate findings of nursing research and to use and apply research findings in clinical practice. The text emphasises using and applying nursing research, and it provides conceptual and non-technical descriptions of the methods used by researchers. Guidelines are presented for use in conducting a research critique. These guidelines should help nurses to evaluate each phase of the research process and its relative contribution to the scientific and clinical significance of the overall findings of a report. A major strength of this book lies in the writers' attention to both quantitative and qualitative research approaches with regard to each component of the research process.

The book is divided into twelve chapters, an appendix with examples of clinical nursing research and an extensive glossary which includes both quantitative and qualitative research terminology. The text not only covers the steps of the research process, but in each chapter both scientific adequacy and the clinical applicability issues are addressed. The most common methods used in quantitative and qualitative studies are presented and illustrated with examples taken from recent research literature. Exercises accompany most chapters to provide the opportunity to practice the skills and knowledge presented.

With the increasing emphasis today on the use of qualitative methods to study nursing phenomena, researchers socialised in quantitative research approaches should find this book particularly useful for guiding them in the evaluation of qualitative approaches. Overall this is a very useful publication and can be recommended for the personal library of nurse researchers and clinical nurses and for libraries of colleges of nursing.

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Barber P (ed) *Mental Handicap. Facilitating Holistic Care*. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

ISBN 0 340 36999X.

Collister B (ed) *Psychiatric Nursing Person to Person*. Edward Arnold. London: 1988. ISBN 0 340 41772Z.

Both of these books are part of the series "Using Nursing Models". They are both interesting and stimulating.

In the first work, four nursing theories are applied to the care of mentally handicapped people. It is shown how this approach makes the care more systematic and holistic. In the last chapter the point is made that the implementation of innovations such as nursing care based on models can only take place successfully if staff are adequately supported. A very good discussion of supervision is given in this regard.

In the second book, ten different models are applied to selected psychiatric patients. What makes this particularly interesting, is that not only strictly nursing theories are included. The cognitive-behaviour and enhancement theories are also included. Classic theories from psychiatric nurses like Peplau and Orlando are applied, but also more general theories like those of Johnson & Roper.

The books would be very useful for practitioners who are interested in taking a new look at their practice, or for researchers looking for a suitable theoretical framework for a study. It could also be used by Colleges and Universities which are interested in choosing a model around which they can build their teaching.

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CORRESPONDENCE

ONCOLOGICAL NURSING STANDARDS

I have read, with interest, the research report on Oncology Nursing Care Standards, which appeared in the August edition of *Curationis*.

I was privileged to peruse the nursing standards when the document was sent to me in December 1987 for evaluation, and the authors are to be congratulated on the refinements made since then.

There are certain problems, within the field of oncological care which are treated differently in individual centres, but adaptation to local needs will produce a comprehensive workable set of standards.

In my opinion, consideration could have been given to the important problem of reproductive dysfunction in the oncology patient. Many cancer patients are in their reproductive years during treatment and require nursing input to inform and reassure. The problem of fertility during treatment requires to be addressed. It is mandatory that women avoid pregnancy during irradiation and chemotherapy. They should be advised to allow an interval of two years between completion of chemotherapy and starting a family. Men, likewise, should allow an interval of two years after treatment with cytotoxic drugs, before fathering a child. In both these instances the patients will need advice on contraception. Cytotoxic drugs will cause infertility in the patient undergoing treatment, but there is an overlap period, where the patient is still fertile, during which problems might arise.

In addition, permanent or long term infertility, due to either surgery, irradiation of the gonads, or hormonal manipulation needs to be given attention. Young men may want to bank sperm prior to commencing treatment, and will need advice on this aspect.

Lastly, hormonal manipulation has an ablative effect on the production of the sex hormones, and the side effects of this form of treatment need careful management.

Today the cancer patient is being treated holistically, and this should include his sexuality. The physical and psychosocial aspects of sexual dysfunction, therefore, should be included in a care plan, and should be handled with sensitivity.

Notwithstanding these suggestions, Mesdames Kleijn and Muller have produced a valuable instrument which should improve the quality of nursing care offered to the oncology patient.

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