

# Caring and Technology: can we separate them in ITU?

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# Aim

- ◉ ITU nurses been seen as technologically focused and dehumanising (Barnard & Sandelowski 2001)
- ◉ Concepts of ‘caring’ and ‘technology’ have tended to be separated in the literature
- ◉ This research study aimed to look at how technology and caring related within the setting of a critical care unit.

# Methodology



- ⊙ Ethnography (Hammersley 1998) study of people/culture
- ⊙ 3 elements:
  - Participant Observation
  - Document analysis
  - In-depth interviews
- ⊙ Constant comparative analysis used

# Participants

- Observations
  - Interviews
  - 8 nurses
  - 11 nurses
  - Observations at different times in day/night
  - Semi-structured interviews
- Continuing
- Reviewed for observed patients to see what was recorded
  - Aim to get different HCP views

# Findings

# Emerging Concepts

# Concepts

## Trust

- Compliance with treatment
- Expression of choice
- Acceptance/ fear

## Vigilance

- Prioritisation
- Integration of activities

## Communication

- Reassurance
- Procedural versus interaction
- Family

# Concepts

## Teamwork

- Discussion
- Support
- Training

## Culture

- Accepted practice
- Socialisation
- Environmental issues

## Tasks

- Drugs
- Procedures
- ‘Care’ activities (wash, mouth)

# Unstable Patient

# Stable Patient

# Discussion

- ⦿ Very evident that nurses did not separate caring and technological aspects of looking after patients (Loscin 1998)
- ⦿ Emphasis on giving holistic patient care that was individualised
- ⦿ The activities seen, and amount of time spent on them, are rarely recorded in documentation

# Issues

- Different risks that care professionals

11/16/09

# Conclusion

- ◉ Hudson (1993) asked if nurses could be good at both elements of ‘caring’ and ‘technical’ within critical care
- ◉ Is value still placed on the technically competent person?
- ◉ Technology focus more evident when learning something new
- ◉ ITU nurses do not like being viewed as uncaring by outsiders

# Any Questions

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## References

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