OC40 – Family participation in caring for hospitalized children – nurses' perspectives

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Theme: Professional issues

Keywords: Hospitalized child, negotiation, paediatric nurse, partnership care.

Aim: To understand nurses' perspective about the presence and participation of parents/caregivers during child's hospitalization.

Method: Quantitative, descriptive and exploratory study. Data collection in 2011 through questionnaire.

Results: The sample comprised 146 nurses that work in paediatric wards in five different hospitals in the North of Portugal; aged between 23 to 59 years old; 93.1% were female; the average professional time was 10.7 years with 9.4 years of professional practice in an inpatient paediatric ward; 89% recognize the importance of parents/caregivers staying at hospital all day with their children during hospitalization; 63.4% always promote the involvement of parents/caregivers in the basic care; 42.5% involved them in more complex care; 9.6% didn't have the habit of explaining the nursing care to the parents before performing them.

Conclusions: It is important that nurses recognize the benefits of effectively involving parents/caregivers in the care, negotiation and decision-making process regarding the child's care.

OC41 – Families of children with Down syndrome: a cross-cultural study

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Theme: Cross-cultural nursing.

Keywords: Adaptation, Down syndrome, family, family factors, resiliency.

The birth of a child with Down syndrome (DS) is a life-changing event for families. However, many families adapt successfully and some even thrive. The purpose of this cross-cultural study was to identify family factors associated with family functioning in three age-based groups of families. 1,107 parents from 6 countries completed an online survey guided by the Resiliency Model of Family Stress, Adjustment and Adaptation. For all three groups, family functioning was better with greater affirmative communication and greater hardiness,

and worse with greater incendiary communication. Other family factors having a significant influence for at least one group were mutuality, family strains, and condition management ability. Findings contribute to our understanding of the underlying processes associated with age-based differences in family functioning in families of children with DS. Nurses need to recognize the importance of family factors and understand that different family factors may gain importance as the child ages.

OC42 – What do parents know about fever?

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Theme: Parenting/parenthood.

Keywords: Children, fever, knowledge, parents.

Introduction: Due to lack of information, the fever in the child brings anxiety and fear to their parents.

Objectives: To identify parents' knowledge towards the child with fever and the sources of information they have used.

Methods: Cross-sectional, descriptive-correlational study. Convenience not probabilistic sample of 360 parents with children in child health surveillance consultation, in central Portugal. Data collection was performed by a questionnaire about fever in children.

Results: Knowledge of the fever was found to be weak among parents aged ≥ 38 years (36.2%) with a partner (77.0%), living in rural areas (69.3%) and having completed the ninth grade (53.9%). Parents up to 37 years (68.2%) with a partner (89.0%), living in urban area (53.0%) and having higher education (43.3%) showed good knowledge. The main sources of information were the doctor (65.8%) and nurses (50.6%).

Conclusion: Nurses need to invest in training parents more on this subject.

OC43 – Reproductive decision-making in families of children with Down syndrome

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Theme: Ethical issues: dignity and humanity.

Keywords: Down syndrome, prenatal, ethical issues, genetic testing, family.

Reproductive decision-making generally becomes much more complex in families once they have given birth to a child with a genetic condition. The question of whether or not to have