

Assessing Nursing Student Empathy Toward Persons Experiencing the Hearing Voices Phenomena

Dwayne F. More, DNP, RN, CNE

The University of Texas Medical Branch

301 University Blvd. Galveston, Texas 77555-1026 dfmore@utmb.edu



Introduction

Nursing students do not have the experience of how to react or how to be therapeutic with an individual who is experiencing auditory hallucinations. This may lead to misunderstandings and stereotyping. By exposing the student to sounds similar to the auditory hallucinations experienced by persons who have certain mental illnesses, it is hoped the student will develop a greater understanding and possibly more empathetic relationship with these patients. Designing and implementing a simulation experience using Pat Deegan's "Hearing voices that are distressing" © curriculum and tool kit will assist the School of Nursing faculty in the endeavor to improve these relationships.



Puzzle head://freedesignfile.com/56313-puzzles-head-design-vector-02/

Methodology

Students completed 5 tasks -

- Watched three introductory videos about auditory phenomena
- Completed Modified Medical Condition Regard Scale before simulation
- Performed three simulation tasks while listening to voices using Mp3 players
- Completed Modified Medical Condition Regard Scale after simulation
- Debriefed after simulation activity

Measurement Tool

Table 1 Modified Medical Condition Regard Scale Pre- and Post-intervention

	Strongly Disagree/Disagree		Not sure but probably disagree or agree		Agree/Strongly Agree	
	Pre/Post values Pre/Post percent n=85		Pre/Post values Pre/Post percent n=85		Pre/Post values Pre/Post percent n=85	
I would prefer not to work with patients like this.	40/41 47%/48.3%		33/17 38.8%/20%	-18.8	12/10* 14.2%/11.7%	
I believe patients like this would irritate me.	55/59 64.7%/69.4%		27/21 31.8%/24.7%	-7.1	3*/5* 3.5%/5.9%	
I might enjoy giving extra time to patients like this.	7/19 8.3%/22.3%		27/28 47.1%/22.9%	-24.2	38*/38* 44.7%/44.7%	
I think patients like this would be particularly difficult for me to work with.	28/42 36.4%/49.4%		40/22 47.1%/25.9%	-21.2	14/21* 16.5%/23.7%	
Working with patients like this would be satisfying.	7/15 8.3%/17.7%		49/36 57.7%/42.3%	-13	29*/34* 34.1%/40%	
I believe I would feel especially compassionate towards patients like this.	3/8 3.6%/11.8%		26/59 30.6%/69.4%		56*/16* 65.9%/18.8%	-47.1
I think I could find something to help patients like this feel better.	14/7 16.5%/8.2%	-8.3	67/67 78.8%/78.8%		4*/1* 17.6%/3.2%	
I believe there is little I could do to help patients like this.	45/44 52.9%/51.8%		34/22 40%/25.9%		6*/19* 7.1%/22.3%	15.2
I think treating patients like this is a waste of medical dollars.	66/70 77.6%/82.3%	4.7	2/3 2.4%/3.6%		1*/0* 1.2%/0	

Paired sample t-test ($t > .05$, $n = 85$)

*Denotes questions not all participants answered
Medical Condition Regard Scale (Christison, Haviland, & Riggs 2002)

Discussion

Eighty-five students took part in the simulation experience. A paired t-test was used to measure the difference between the levels of empathy students indicated they felt toward persons who experienced the hearing voices phenomena before and after the simulation. The p-level was greater than .05, indicating no significant difference in the levels of empathy toward those persons who experience the hearing voices phenomena. Of note the Modified Medical Condition Regard Scale was administered two hours apart which may have influenced the outcome of the scale results. The students did indicate they had gained a greater appreciation for those persons who experience this phenomena and felt better equipped to engage in a therapeutic relationship with those persons.

References

- Christison, G., Haviland, M., & Riggs, M.L. (2002). The Medical Condition Regard Scale: Measuring reactions to diagnosis. *Academic Medicine, 77*, 257-262
- Deegan, P. (2006). *Hearing Voices Curriculum: Complete Training and Curriculum Package* Retrieved from: patdeegan.com
- Puzzle Head (2017). Retrieved from: freedesignfile.com/56313-puzzles-head-design-vector-02/