

Experiences of Surgical Nurses in Providing End of Life Care: A Qualitative Interview Study

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Background

The number of deaths occurring in hospitals continues to rise, many in settings other than specialist palliative care, oncology or critical care. Nursing staff working outside these specialist environments report end of life care (EoLC) as a source of stress; we therefore aimed to understand these experiences further.

Aim

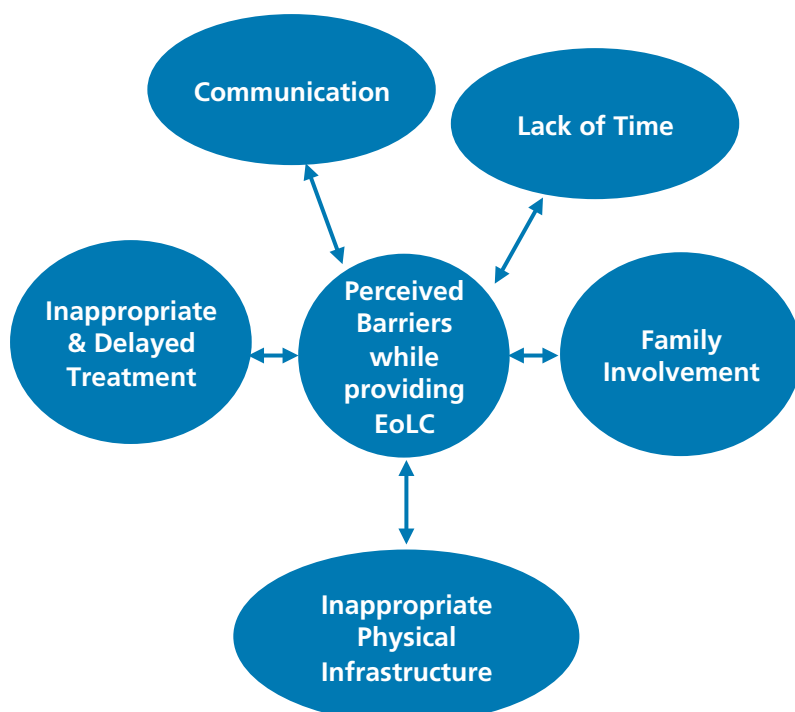
This study aimed to investigate the experiences of surgical nurses while caring for dying patients.

Results

Five themes emerged:

- (1) Understanding and preference for EoLC
- (2) Perceived barriers while providing EoLC
- (3) Robust support from the team as a facilitator while providing EoLC
- (4) Symptom management
- (5) Future training and support

Further, theme 2 has five sub-themes as shown below:



Methodology

- Eight staff nurses (band 5) were interviewed from two surgical wards in an acute trust.
- Open questions were used to explore general experiences, and further prompts discussed factors which enable or hinder delivery of care.
- The interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed and analysed with Nvivo software.
- Thematic analysis was used to analyse the data.

Conclusion

- Interviewees considered providing EoLC as part of their profession.
- Established that participants felt able to provide appropriate physical care.
- Participants identified challenges in providing emotional and psychological support to dying patients and their families.
- Training on topics such as communication and usage of equipment may improve the standard of care of dying people.



REFERENCES

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