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Evaluation of the impact multi-module pediatric palliative care training in pediatric clinicians

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Background: A lack of knowledge of pediatric palliative care and the resulting lack of confidence in oneself may create hesitation in caring for dying children and their families. Few training programs focus specifically on pediatric palliative care and no multi-module training program in pediatric palliative care is available in Taiwan.

Objectives: To examine the impact of multi-module pediatric palliative care training on pediatric clinicians.

Methods: A quasi-experimental study provided educational training in pediatric palliative care to pediatric clinicians and used a pre-test and a post-test to assess outcomes. A multi-module pediatric palliative care training program was presented at a four-day training conference for clinicians in Taiwan, and all pediatricians and all pediatric nurses who completed the entire four-day training program were invited to participate. A questionnaire was used to assess different research goals.

Results: Thirty-nine pediatric nurses and 11 doctors participated in this study for a response rate of 83.3%. Results showed a significant main effect ($p=0.002$) of training on confidence levels among pediatric clinicians in a variety of areas, including emotional support for clinicians, implementation of palliative care, ethical and legal issues, and emotional support for dying children and their families.

Conclusion: Our research suggests that education program can effectively boost pediatric clinicians' confidence regarding providing palliative care for children and their families. Further investigations are needed to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of an interdisciplinary and multifaceted training approach to pediatric palliative care training.

Biography

Niang-Huei Peng is an Assistant Professor at National Yang-Ming University, Taipei City, in Taiwan. Her professional major is pediatric nursing care and minor major is neonatal nursing care. Her major research areas are Improvement the Neonatal/ Pediatric palliative care in Taiwan, Exploration the Stress Responses of Preterm Infant in NICU, to explore the Energy Expenditure in Preterm Infants during Periods of Environmental Stress in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, an Innovation of apparent of automatic audio and vibrotactile stimuli for interrupting apneic episodes in preterm infants. She has published different research papers regarding above research topics and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of the Palliative Medicine & Nursing: Open Access.

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