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Professor Rinehart-Kim
February 20,2020

Writing assignment 3

This research study that was found in the “Journal of General Internal Medicine, is to analyze how clinicians are treating patients that have sickle cell disease, and also observe how negative attitudes towards the patient because of their racial profile of African descent (in this specific study) can affect how the clinicians manage the patients pain therapy. Overall, the study they conducted involved using a “video-intervention”, that should theoretically improve the clinician’s attitude towards the patient and have a direct relationship to the management of their pain, for the better. The sample size they used of the number of clinicians working in this large hospital was 276. This is a randomized study, and it observed the 276 clinicians after the test; Only about half of the group was put into the intervention group that would watch the video, and the other half would be the control group. The test measured the attitudes of the clinicians using a scale which uses the clinicians estimates of the percentage of patients that exaggerate pain, and makes their job a lot harder, or patients that make the clinicians feel happy that they are working with them in the field of medicine. The study found specific attitudes given by patients and clinicians. Patients and clinicians demonstrate that the clinicians lack sympathy for the patient. The health care providers are found to mistrust the patients, and also feel that they are addicted to opioids; The patients also testify that they feel that the clinicians think in that way about them. This research study is to test for changes in pain-management results after the video-intervention for both the patients point of view, and also the clinicians. The intervention includes an 8-minute video intervention that depicts the challenges from the sickle cell patients of their own testimony about their life hardships with the disease and while dealing with the pain. The research study used surveys as their method to gather information about the clinician’s interest in the video, how they feel during the video, and how they feel about the patients they work with. The control group’s information was collected. Demographic information about the clinicians was also collected including their sex and race. The study uses the “Medical Condition Regard Scale” to measure the clinicians attitude of the patients to either be enjoyable, treatable, and or worthy of medical resources; The scale is utilized to see how clinicians use their professional judgment to decide whether the patient is worthy of needing pain medication. The research study used statistical data to evaluate their data with a correlation matrix, “Bartlett’s test”, and “Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin test”. The study’s methods of measurement are very detailed and thorough. They found that (52.5%) were randomized to the intervention group, and that there were no differences in clinician characteristics by intervention group. The participants treated between 1 and 10 sickle cell patients in the prior 3 months. The racial composition of the clinicians was analyzed and was the data that was also expected to change characteristics and attitudes. The clinicians were either physicians or nurses and found 53.9% to be white, 27.1% to be African-American, 11.7% to be Asian, and 7.3% were other races. For each negative characteristics of the patient, over 60% of the staff seemed to answer that the patients were manipulative, frustrating, and or failed to comply. 75% of them said that the patients make them glad that they went into medicine and or the medical field. Approximately 84% of them, said they are satisfying to take care of. The clinician’s statistics seemed to correlate to the “Medical Condition Regard Scale” in favor of the researchers, showing that clinicians whose attitude was less favorable towards the patients as

being enjoyable or worthy of resources, also thought that they have concern-raising behaviors and red-flag behavior. The clinicians with a positive attitude and interest about the patients while working with them found the patients to be enjoyable and worthy of medical resources such as pain medication. The study found outcome measure of the control group and looked-for differences in the intervention group. The group that watched the video described fewer patients to exaggerate pain, manipulate clinicians or are drug-seeking when they come to the hospital. The research study addressed that they did not research to observe how patients change their behaviors when clinicians walk in the room; The discussion portion states some facts about the experiment that could possibly skew the data and or could be the results of patient behavior. The data in the research found that the clinicians tend to overestimate the prevalence of drug addiction; In the discussion, the author synchronizes data from another hospital's research study to justify their proposition. It was found that patient's behavior that was considered concern-raising, was also statistically associated with patients attempts to seek relief from their pain, and that there was no association between behaviors driven from substance abuse. Despite the limitations addressed in the discussion, the researchers definitely agree that an education intervention that appealed emotionally can improve clinician's attitudes to sickle cell patients. The researchers include their used sources from other researchers and hospitals on the same topic that helped them come up with a consensus about their ideas regarding patient and clinician relationship.

Reference:

Haywood, C., Jr, Lanzkron, S., Hughes, M. T., Brown, R., Massa, M., Ratanawongsa, N., & Beach, M. C. A video-intervention to improve clinician attitudes toward patients with sickle cell disease: the results of a randomized experiment. *Journal of general internal medicine*, 26(5), 518–523. (2011). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3077483/>