Fostering the Development of Intuitive Decision-Making in Nursing: An Evidence-Based Model

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Background

• Appropriate clinical decision-making by nurses is the cornerstone of excellent nursing care, superior patient outcomes and the goal of nurse educators.

• New nursing graduates often do not exhibit competency in entry-level clinical judgment in their role as a graduate nurse (Ferro et al., 2008).
• Experienced nurses make fewer errors in decision-making when compared with novice nurses.

• When compared with recent graduates, expert nurses also report a greater use of intuitive decision-making (Pretz & Folz, 2011; Rew & Barrow 2007).
• Stages of clinical competence
  • Novice
  • Advanced Beginner
  • Competent
  • Proficient
  • Expert-Intuitive (Benner, 1984)
What is *Intuition*??

- Studied almost exclusively using subjective descriptive studies (Rew & Barrow, 2007)
- Good description of the phenomenon
- Consensus that intuition does exist
- Lack of tangible evidence
Theoretical Framework
Somatic Marker Hypothesis

• Human reasoning dependent on neural activities
  • Conscious and unconscious
• Cognitive activities dependent on support processes
  • Working memory, Attention, Emotion
• Decision making dependent on domain specific knowledge
Theoretical Framework

Somatic Marker Hypothesis

- Decision making is affected by alterations in emotion
  - Felt or unfelt
- Process influenced by signals from bioregulatory processes
  - Electrodermal activity recording
  - Skin Conductance Response (Damasio, 1996)
Iowa Gambling Task

• Series of 100 card selections from four decks of cards labeled A, B, C, and D

• Normal participants began to generate SCRs immediately prior to choosing a card

• Theorized that after pattern recognition (good vs bad deck) brain sent psychophysiological signal to aid in decision (Bechera, et al., 1997)
Pilot Study

- Experienced Nurses compared with students
- Experienced nurses generated significantly more SCRs
- Plausible that experienced nurses were able to enact a somatic state resulting in advantageous decision making
Benner's NTE

Non-Conscious

Nursing Experience

Memory

Pattern Recognition

Intuition/Somatic State

Skin Conductive Response (SCR)

Advantageous Decision

Payne (2015a)

Damasio's SMH

Non-Conscious

Task-Specific Knowledge

Memory

Pattern Recognition
Majority of educational interventions geared toward improving decision-making and judgment within nursing did not include decision-making theory as a foundation (Thompson et al., 2013)

Synthesizes
- Benner’s Novice to Expert theory
- Damascio’s Somatic Marker Hypothesis
- Cognitive Continuum Theory (Hammond, 2000)

Pattern-based

Constructivist
Payne (2015b)
References


References


