Application of Rogers' Science of Unitary Human Beings to a Patient with Dementia

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ABSTRACT

This paper explored and illustrated the experience of applying Rogers' Unitary Theory for taking care of a patient with dementia. Rogers' Unitary Theory regards human being as an intact entity that includes the aspects of physical, psychological, social, and spiritual well being. The author utilizes the three principles of integrity, helicy, and resonance of this theory to assess the life developmental process and energy interaction between the patient and his/her environment. During the nursing process, disturbance of sleeping pattern, disorientation, impairment of memory, deficit of the ability on self-care, and changes in nutrition and activity pattern are the health problems identified for this patient. This case study can help nurses recognize the possible health problems resulted from the imbalance of energy, and furthermore assist the patient to reach and maintain optimal function, harmony, and well-being. Music therapy and individual reminiscence therapy that were the non-invasive alternative therapies used by the author during the caring process those can be implemented by clinicians for future nursing practice. With the concept of regarding human being as a "whole", but not the sum of the parts, it is expected that Rogers' Unitary theory will be widely applied in nursing practice in future. (Tzu Chi Nursing Journal, 2004; 3:2, 91-97.)

Key words: nursing theory, nursing process, dementia.