

Israeli nurses' comfort with family presence during procedures

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Background: Patients and their families in Israel are more aware of their rights and request family presence during invasive procedures.

Aim: The purpose of this study was to assess if there was a change over time of graduate nursing students' attitudes to family presence during invasive procedures from 2005 to 2013 .

Methods: In 2005 and 2013 Israeli nurses of a Masters program in Nursing filled out a questionnaire with demographic data and 12 questions about their attitudes towards presence of family members during invasive procedures or resuscitation.

Results: in 2005 nurses stated that psychosocial support to family members was part of their work (procedures 83% and resuscitation 68%) and that they felt comfortable providing support during procedures (74%) but less during resuscitation (48%). When family members were present, nurses felt uncomfortable, and few thought that family members should be allowed to be present. However, nurses working in pediatrics and nurses born in Israel were more in favor of giving families the option to be present. About half of the nurses had been asked by family members to participate in procedures, but only 16% had been asked for resuscitation. A written protocol was supported by 45% for procedures, but only 15% were in favor in cases of resuscitation. Nurses perceived giving support to patients and family members as the most important benefit. Possible stress for the team or the patient was a reported barrier to family presence. In 2013 nurses of a Masters Program in Nursing filled out the same questionnaire. Results of this second phase of the study will be presented and compared with those of 2005.

Conclusion: A tendency for pediatric nurses to include family members during certain procedures was seen and a substantial resistance by nurses in adult care.