

## College of Nursing and Health Professions



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# An Investigation of the Relationships of Perceived Nurse Caring, Social Support, and Emotion Focused Coping to Comfort in Hospitalized Medical Patients

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## PURPOSE

- ◆ This study tested theory to explain comfort as perceived by hospitalized medical patients
- ◆ Theory proposed that positive relationships exist between comfort and the following three independent variables: (a) perceived nurse caring, (b) social support, and (c) emotion-focused coping

## HYPOTHESES

In hospitalized medical patients:

- ◆ Perceived nurse caring is positively related to comfort
- ◆ Perceived social support is positively related to comfort
- ◆ Emotion-focused coping is positively related to comfort
- ◆ No subset of the independent variables will explain patients' perceptions of comfort better than a multivariate model comprised of: (a) nurse caring; (b) social support; and (c) emotion-focused coping

## INSTRUMENTS

- ◆ General Comfort Questionnaire
- ◆ Revised Caring Behaviors Inventory
- ◆ Personal Resource Questionnaire 85-Part II
- ◆ Ways of Coping Questionnaire

## SAMPLE

- ◆ 191 Hospitalized Medical Patient
- ◆ 51.3% were men and 48.7% were women
- ◆ Aged 23 to 75 ( $M = 53.50$ ,  $SD = 14.23$ )
- ◆ 62.8% White, 30.9% African American

## RESULTS

- ◆ A statistically significant and positive relationship was found between perceived nurse caring and comfort ( $r = .28$ ,  $p < .001$ )
- ◆ A statistically significant and strong positive relationship was found between social support and comfort ( $r = .65$ ,  $p = .001$ )
- ◆ A statistically significant and negative relationship was found between emotion-focused coping and comfort ( $r = -.25$ ,  $p < .001$ )
- ◆ The multiple regression hypothesis testing did support a three step model which explained 46.8% of the variance in comfort ( $F(1, 187) = 138.92$ ,  $p < .001$ )

## CONCLUSIONS

- ◆ This is the first theory-testing correlational study to have examined three variables in relation to comfort in an attempt to explain the construct
- ◆ All three variables served as explanatory factors of comfort, although one bivariate relationship was opposite to that hypothesized

## FUTURE RESEARCH

- ◆ Research in various samples of patients, using the same variables and design as in the present study
- ◆ Research focusing on outcomes of comfort in patients
- ◆ Research comparing differences in comfort among patients from different cultural and ethnic groups is needed in the present multicultural American society

