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Do Student Nurses Use Intuition, and Does Its Use Affect Their Clinical Competency?

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Poster Presentation P19

**DO STUDENT NURSES USE INTUITION, AND DOES ITS USE AFFECT THEIR
CLINICAL COMPETENCY?**

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How do student nurses, who are novices in their field, use intuition to guide clinical decision making? This is an important question to examine as it relates directly to patient care and clinical outcomes. In this study, 27 junior undergraduate nursing students completed measures relating to preference for intuition in and out of nursing, thinking/feeling preference, rational/experiential preference, self-ratings of nursing competency, critical thinking skills, demographic information, and clinical experience outside of their coursework. Other information, such as Nursing exam scores, Nursing GPAs, and ACT/SAT scores were obtained upon consent. The students' clinical course instructors rated the students on their clinical competency and use of intuition in clinical situations. The results of the study indicate that when student nurses use intuition they are deemed more competent by their instructors. Intuition was significantly and positively correlated with faculty competency ratings. When a hierarchical regression was conducted to examine how intuition uniquely contributed to the outcomes, intuition accounted for 47.9% of the variation in the data. What this means is that novice nurses are capable of using their intuition successfully and with good outcomes. Implications of the study include changes to the current nursing view of the use of intuition by novices and better patient outcomes if novices trust their intuition to make clinical decisions.