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Abstract

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Author(s)			
Glad Jenni, Korhonen Heidi, Niskanen Laura, Savolainen Hanna			
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Supervisor(s)			
Satu Kajander-Unkuri, TtT			
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Abstract

The thesis is a part of the EU Key Skill Management in Operating Room Nursing (KSMOR) project. Besides Savonia University of Applied Sciences, nursing schools from the Czech Republic, Belgium, and France participated in the project, too. The aim of the project was to produce a uniform collection of forms and questionnaires that can be utilized in improving the self-assessment of surgical nurses. The thesis also aims to conduct research on how the education of nurses could be developed, and how the competence of nurses could be ensured. Based on the previous research, the graduating nurses often assess their own skills more optimistically than their instructors do. As the amount of research conducted on the assessment of operating room nursing is scarce, the project aims to produce more research on the subject.

Eight students specialized in operating room nursing and their instructors participated in the research project. Both the quantitative and qualitative research methods were applied in the study. In the qualitative research, the instructors and the students assessed the students' skills in 11 different fields. The qualitative data was handled by tabulating the answers numerically so that the instructors' and the students' responses could be compared to each other. The quantitative material covered the user experiences of the questionnaires and a focus group-interview with the students. The qualitative material was analyzed by using a data-based, inductive contents analysis method. An inductive method means generalizing results from an individual finding.

The study results revealed that the nursing students assessed their skills more optimistically compared to their instructors´ assessments in eight fields while the instructors assessed the students' skills more optimistically in three fields. The questionnaire was evaluated to be applicable for e.g. orientation or developing self-assessment. The questionnaire received negative feedback on its length and the content of the questions.

The conclusion of the study is that graduating nursing students assess their own skills more optimistically compared to their instructors' assessments of students' skills. The graduating nursing students' realistic assessment of their own knowledge and identifying their own skills improves patient safety and the quality of nursing while the students proceed from studies to working life. Savonia University of Applied Sciences can utilize the study results to develop the teaching in operating room nursing. The results can show the employer which qualifications the graduating nurses have in surgical nursing. This can in turn help the employer target the training for nurses according to the development needs.

Keywords
Operation Room Competence, Graduating nursing student, Nurse Education