Expectations of patients for the implementation of new nursing technology

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Background

New technologies are assumed to support professional nurses and improve care quality for patients (Krick et al. 2019). This has implications for patients since they are on the one hand vulnerable due to their health impairment and on the other hand become new users or beneficiaries of nursing technology. That means new demands and challenges for them (Rouleau et al. 2017).

Rational and research question

We know little about patients’ perspectives on emerging technologies in care delivery. In the ‘Centre of Implementing Nursing Care Innovations’ study, hospital patients from a trauma surgical ward were interviewed regarding the following questions:

What are patients’ expectations and concerns for the implementation of new technology into care delivery?

Methods

Between August 2019 and February 2020, 17 semi-structured interviews were conducted with patients from a German university hospital. To stimulate a response, eight technology were presented to study participants by video and text (Törrönen 2002). Interviews were recorded, transcribed and coded using evaluative, qualitative content analysis (Kuckartz 2018).

Implication

Patients:

- identify a spectrum of possible implementation effects for themselves and other patients, for care professionals, and toward nursing care delivery,
- critically weigh up opportunities and challenge,
- deriving at strategies to foster positive effects and
- are worried about possible negative unintended consequences of technology implementation.

Patients do not envision the uptake of new technologies in care delivery as fundamentally positive or negative development. Rather they see a positive potential for change in care delivery and support for caretakers by technology uptake that must be enabled by comprehensive implementation strategies. Results of this study can help develop patient-centered implementation strategies.

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