

# Investigation of factors related to nursing care for patients with dementia at acute hospitals in Japan



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**Background** As the elderly population increases, the number of patients with dementia being admitted to acute hospitals is increasing year by year. Understanding and adequate assistance for patients with dementia will become more important for nurses at acute hospitals in the days ahead.

**Purpose** The purpose of this study was to investigate factors associated with care for patients with dementia conducted by nurses working at acute hospitals.

**Design** Cross-sectional exploratory research design

**Methods**

- ◆ **Participants**  
362 nurses working at thirteen acute hospitals in Tokyo having 300 or more beds.
- ◆ **Data collection**  
Self-description questionnaires were used to collect data and nurses working in maternity sections and pediatric sections were excluded.
- ◆ **Data analysis**  
Conducted *t* test and calculated Pearson's correlation coefficient using SPSS Version 22.0.
- ◆ **Ethical considerations**  
Approved by the first presenter's Institutional Review Board.

**Results** Table 1. Demographic profile of participants

|                                 | Mean (SD) or percent |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| n = 362                         |                      |
| Age (years)                     | 35.1 (8.3)           |
| Sex: female                     | 95.0                 |
| Nursing experience (years)      | 11.4 (8.2)           |
| Institution nursing was studied |                      |
| University                      | 25.4                 |
| Junior college                  | 11.6                 |
| Training school                 | 57.5                 |

Table 2. Differences in experience of care for patients with dementia during nurses' clinical practice in basic education

| Experience of care for PWD   | Yes Mean (SD) | No Mean (SD) | <i>p</i> value |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Assessment of family members | 5.75 (1.17)   | 6.07 (1.10)  | .018           |
| Respect for dignity          | 5.84 (1.12)   | 6.13 (0.98)  | .017           |
| Diligence about privacy      | 6.34 (0.94)   | 6.55 (0.82)  | .044           |
| Age                          | 32.70 (7.28)  | 38.69 (8.35) | .000           |
| Nursing experience           | 8.33 (6.50)   | 15.59 (8.46) | .000           |

*t* test

Table 3. Correlation of care for patients with dementia and interest of dementia care, feeling allowance and nursing experience

| Items  | Interest | Allowance | Experience |
|--|----------|-----------|------------|
| Performing an assessment of the patient's cognitive functioning.   | .152**   | .072      | -.036      |
| Performing an assessment of underlying diseases and medications that affect the patient's cognitive functioning. | .205**   | .055      | .012       |
| Performing an assessment of the patient's communication.   | .200**   | .057      | -.037      |
| Performing an assessment of the patient's latent faculties.  | .098     | .121*     | -.055      |
| Performing an assessment of the patient's family conditions.   | .154**   | .084      | .102       |
| Performing an assessment of the state of public support for the patient  | .148**   | .107*     | .092       |
| Talking to the patient using words and a speaking speed that are easy to understand.                             | .114*    | .187**    | .007       |
| Valuing the patient's dignity as a person.   | .149**   | .012      | .129*      |
| Trying to actively communicate with the patient.   | .202**   | .021      | .077       |
| Creating an environment where patients can see the location of the places they want to go.                       | .107*    | .045      | .078       |
| Helping the patient realize the passage of time, for example by placing a calendar.                              | .133*    | -.003     | .043       |
| Providing care that matches the patient's risk of falling.   | .142**   | .140**    | .021       |
| Adjusting text size and color for the patient.   | .096     | .119*     | -.009      |
| Trying to minimize restraining the patient as much as possible.  | .138**   | .010      | -.020      |
| Responding to the uncertainties and requests of the patient's family members.                                    | .097     | .080      | .115*      |
| Providing the patient with the care they need.   | .118*    | .056      | -.030      |
| Providing the patient with high quality care.  | .073     | .064      | .145**     |

Items: Range is from 1 (never) to 7 (always)

Pearson's correlation coefficient \* *P* < .05, \*\* *p* < .001

**Interest:** High score indicates that nurses are interested in providing care to patients with dementia.  
**Allowance:** High score indicates that nurses feel irritated while working and do not have enough time to take care of patients and to finish their work within their working hours.  
**Experience:** Years of nursing experience.

**Conclusions** The results indicate that nurses having more interest in patients with dementia, allowance of mind and mental health, and nursing experience perform more assessments and care for patients with dementia. Dementia care experience during the clinical practice in the basic education negatively affected current care for patients with dementia, but it was considered that the negative effects arise from the differences in their amount of experience, as they were significantly younger and had less nursing experience than nurses without clinical practice for patients with dementia in their basic education.