

A study of the feasibility of introducing therapeutic touch into the operative environment...

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Full Title A study of the feasibility of introducing therapeutic touch into the operative environment with patients undergoing cerebral angiography.

The purpose of this pilot study was to determine whether Therapeutic Touch (TT) can be effectively used in the operative setting and whether it could produce positive outcomes in the period from cerebral angiography to discharge. The specific outcomes to be assessed were blood pressure, pulse, and respirations. TT is an intervention that involves the intentional direction of energy for the purpose of healing. The present study was developed within the conceptual framework of Rogers's model of unitary human beings. Data were collected at a center for endovascular surgery. The participants were 40 men and women aged between 18 and 80 years who were referred to the center for cerebral angiograms. The participants were English-speaking, ambulatory patients, with no history of prior cerebral angiograms and no psychiatric diagnosis. The design was a randomized, single-blind experiment. The research data were collected in the normal course of the angiogram procedure and recovery room. The blood pressure, pulse, and respirations were routinely noted before, during, and after the procedure. The study was significant in three aspects: (a) it was the first study to develop a protocol for delivering TT in the preoperative course of neurological patients, (b) the study is conceptualized within Rogers's conceptual model of unitary human beings, and (c) the study explored the impact of TT on selected outcomes in endovascular patients. A protocol for delivering TT in the operative setting was successfully developed and implemented. The efficacy of TT on the blood pressure, respirations, and pulse of the experimental group was not statistically significant. The reasons for this finding are explored, and suggestions are made for future research.

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