Knowledge enhancement Program on Skin Graft Operation for Burn patients and carers

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Introduction

Major Burn injury was a great trauma to victims as well as their family members. They might have to face further surgical interventions. Skin graft operation is usually arranged for major and extensive burn patients especially with Deep partial thickness or Full thickness burn wound. Kiyohara et al (2004) stated that for patients who did not hold enough information about their surgery had higher level of anxiety. Therefore, they should receive essential information before the operation. Moreover, Greenfield (2010) pointed out Burn nurse was the centre of burn team and coordinate most of patients’ activities. They should possess broad-based knowledge and psychosocial skills.

Objectives

Firstly, Burn patients and carers receive a comprehensive education on preparation and consequence of Skin graft operation, we aim to reduce their anxiety level, so as to optimize their post-operative compliance and outcomes.

Methodology

The program was done from January to December 2014. Total 30 burn patients and carers were recruited. Before patient’s skin graft operation, the responsible burn nurse provided detail explanation on the preparation and consequence according to the well-established Information Booklet on Pre and Post Skin grafting. Referent clinical photos were showed for better understanding. In order to review their anxiety and depression level, the Chinese version of Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale was used before and after the educational program. Besides, the patients and carers needed to answer a questionnaire containing 6 questions aimed to test their understanding of the operation.
Result
Patients and their carers showed understanding on the preparation and consequence of Skin graft operation before the operation day. Average score of essential knowledge was 76.1% (Pre-reading) and increased to 97.2% (post-reading). All samples showed a significant decrease in anxiety level after the program. However, there was no significant improvement in the depression level. Furthermore, all samples showed 100% compliance on the care after the operation.