Perceptions of nurses towards nursing grand round in oncology care setting

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Introduction
Nursing grand round (NGR) is an initiative aiming at promoting excellence in nursing practice. It provides a platform for nurses at different levels to discuss patient care management together, in particular for challenging or complex cases, and thus enhances their care competencies and confidence. Although NGR has been widely practiced in western countries, little attempt is noted in the local health care setting.

Objectives
This study aimed to explore the perspectives and experiences of nurses towards NGR.

Methodology
This study was conducted at two oncology wards in a local acute hospital where NGR has been introduced for one year. Individual and focus group interviews were conducted with nurses of different levels from December 2014 to January 2015. Nurses with more than one year of working experience in the study venue and having been involved in the NGR were eligible to the study. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the Cluster Research Ethics Committee. All participation was on voluntary basis and anonymous.

Result
Total five nurses at the managerial grade and twenty frontline nurses participated in the individual and focus group interviews respectively. All participants unanimously expected that the NGR would help to establish a teaching and learning atmosphere for sharing clinical and leadership expertise, in particular for providing support and
guidance to junior nurses. In addition, it would facilitate ongoing monitoring of the care quality, and strengthen teamwork. Major outcomes of the NGR as perceived by the participants could be broadly categorized as gaining professional knowledge, improving organization and presentation skills, and providing holistic care. They regarded positive appraisal and appreciation among colleagues to be conducive to a culture of open communication within the team, which is a major facilitator for integrating the NGR into practice. However, they also identified that competing roles and time demand are barriers to its implementation. They believed that the NGR would be more effective with flexible schedule or arrangement and a broader range of issues for discussion. In conclusion, NGR is well received by the participants as to pave the way for further nursing professionalism. The findings of this study highlighted the importance of tailoring it to the training needs of the team members through open communication. This shed light on how this service innovation can be adapted to the heavy workload in the local care setting.