PATIENT-INVESTED CONTINGENT SELF-ESTEEM: INSTRUMENT VALIDATION AND SURVEY IN NURSES PROVIDING SELF-MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Problem statement

Patient-invested contingent self-esteem (Pa-CSE) refers to the extent to which nurses’ professional self-esteem is dependent upon their patients’ achievements (e.g. being adherent to prescribed advice) in chronic condition self-management, and is – according to the Self-Determination Theory - expected to predict controlling interactions, which are contra-indicated within self-management support. This study aimed to develop and examine the psychometric properties of the Pa-CSE scale (study 1) and explore the level of Pa-CSE in nurses supporting patients’ self-management (study 2).

Methods

The Pa-CSE scale was developed from the well-known child-invested CSE scale (Wuyts et al., 2015), and content validated by experts. Study 1 was a psychometric validation study in which qualified nurses (N=170) and final year nursing students (N=150) completed self-reporting questionnaires. Principal component analysis was performed. Internal consistency, test-retest and absolute reliability; and theory-based hypotheses were tested. Study 2 was a cross-sectional study in a random sample of hospitals and primary care organizations. Nurses were eligible to participate if >50% of their patients lived with a chronic illness.

Results

Evidence was found for a single-factor scale. The internal consistency was 0.88, 6-week test-retest reliability was 0.88, and standard error of measurement was 0.21. Convergent validity was moderate with controlling interactions (r=0.25,p<0.01). Divergent validity was moderate negative with self-esteem (r= -0.23, p<0.01). In study two, 603 nurses participated. Nurses mean Pa-CSE level was 2.03 (SD .73). Nurses providing patient consultations and homecare nurses demonstrated higher correlation between their level of Pa-CSE and controlling interactions (r=0.34,p<0.01 and r=0.33,p<0.01 respectively).

Discussion & implications

This study is the first to investigate the concept of Pa-CSE within professionals who support patients’ self-management. The Pa-CSE scale is a reliable and valid 12-item scale and can be applied in research and practice. When nurses’ professional self-esteem is contingent upon their patients’ achievements, they are likely to rely on more controlling interactions with chronic patients. It is important to make nurses aware of on what their professional self-esteem depends. This awareness can be raised in basic or continued education. An in-depth exploration of the concept of Pa-CSE and its role in the nurse-patient interaction during SMS is needed.

References