

# NURSING STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE ON TRUTHFUL DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO CANCER PATIENTS

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## Abstract

**Background:** Disclosure of information to cancer patients is an area that medical professionals often find difficult. In some cases there has been conflict with whether medical professionals should inform their patients or not. Recognizing the information needs throughout the illness and manner of disclosure are pivotal in providing responsive and high-quality care. Therefore, the aim of this study was to explore nursing student's experience and view on truthful disclosure of information about diagnosis and prognosis to cancer patients. **Methods:** Eight senior nursing students were selected purposefully to participate in a qualitative, descriptive and contextual study. Data were collected by mean of individual interviews. Data analyzed using the Tesch descriptive analysis method. **Results:** Nursing students thought that the truth should be delivered gradually during stages of therapy based on patient's psychological state. All of the nursing students consider truth telling as a patient right to take the total control of decision making process for their treatment. Majority of students see the nurses or close family members as a person responsible to break the diagnostic disclosure. **Conclusions:** Many nursing students found these interactions stressful. In the absence of much effective training nursing students may adopt inappropriate ways of delivering bad news and coping with the emotional fall-out. Recognition of these difficulties has led to many initiatives.

**Key words:** Nursing students' experience, truthful disclosure, cancer patients, qualitative research