

A Report on Asia-Pacific Nursing Research Conference 2014

2014 アジア太平洋看護研究学会の報告

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Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Nursing Research Conference (APNRC) was held at the Grand Hotel in Taipei, Taiwan from September 11 to 13, 2014. APNRC, which was sponsored by the Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNA), serves as a meeting ground for nursing specialists and scholars from around the Asia-Pacific area. This Conference aims to bring together leading nurses, researchers and scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results related to promoting global health as well as to discuss practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted. I presented our study at this meeting.

The following report describes the APNRC 2014, our study and future work.

APNRC 2014

2014 has been the most important and meaningful year for TWNA, and APNRC 2014 coincided with the TWNA centennial celebrations. The Conference theme was “Promoting Global Health: From Research to Practice.” The concurrent session covered 14 issues: Disaster nursing, Women’s health nursing, Infectious/communicable disease nursing, Health Promotion & Disease Prevention, Health Promotion & Disease Prevention, Burn/emergency/trauma nursing, Aged-related care, Evidence-based health care, Complementary health practice, Nursing education, Nursing practice environment, Patient safety and quality healthcare, Nursing leadership, and Global health.

The Conference was a resounding success with over 900 participants from more than 15 countries. Similarly, 16 sponsored exhibitors participated in the exhibition for three days. The excellent science program consisted of 5 Plenary Keynote Lectures, 2 Main Session Lectures, 2 Workshop Speeches, 3 Lunch Symposiums sponsored by golden sponsors, 2 Symposium presentations, 84 Oral presentations and 539 Poster presentations with the involvement from all over the world. Thirty posters were selected in the Best poster competition. Fortunately, our study was selected as the Best poster at APNRC 2014 (Picture 1).



Picture 1

Our study

We are interested in communication among older adults with dementia in gerontological nursing. The title of our poster is “Caregiver’s Smile Can Make Older Adults with Dementia Smile.” In this study, we focused on the importance of smiles when caregivers communicate their thoughts to older adults with dementia in elderly care facilities.

1. Purpose

Caregivers tend to evaluate communication with older adults with dementia as effective when they smile in response; the smile is a matter of care for older adults with dementia (Dugahee & Dugahee, 2012; Low, Goodenough, Fletcher, Xu, Casey, Chenoweth, Fleming, Spitzer, Bell & Brodaty, 2014). However, there is no evidence that a caregiver’s smile can make older adults with dementia smile even if the caregiver feels like it. This study clarified the changes in the frequency of smiles expressed by older adults with dementia when the caregiver interacted with them while exhibiting a smile and no expression.

2. Methods

Two observers monitored the frequency of smiles of the subjects during upper extremity physical exercises. Inter-rater agreement was calculated using Cohen’s k coefficient. Caregivers interacted with the older adults with dementia while exhibiting a smile and no expression. The ABAB design was conducted using a single-case experimental design with two conditions (Intervention A: smile; Intervention B: no expression). Caregivers contacted the subjects with a smile as a mental health follow-up after they finished intervention B. This study was supported by the Ethics Committee of University in Japan.

3. Results

The subjects were 12 older residents with dementia in an elderly care facilities (male, $n = 2$; female, $n = 10$; mean age = $89. \pm 5.7$). The number of CDR-2 (Clinical Dementia Rating-2) were 7 and CDR-3 was 5. The rate of Inter-rater agreement between the two observers was high ($k = 0.853$) and showed high reliability. The frequency of smiles expressed in older adults with dementia increased when the caregiver interacted with them with a smile, but decreased when the caregivers interacted with them with no expression. This result showed that the caregiver’s smile could make the older adults with dementia smile.

4. Implications for practice

The results of this study provided evidence for the importance of a smile when caregivers communicate their thoughts to the older adults with dementia in elderly care facilities. The smile of older adults with dementia must be one of the indicators of effective communication between an older adults with dementia and caregivers.

Future work

We noticed that older adults with dementia had feelings of pleasure, enjoyed communication and had a smile when caregivers gave them a smile from this study. It would be possible to evaluate the effects of communication and interaction between the older adults with dementia and caregivers indicated by facial expression of older adults with dementia and subjective satisfaction. What we want to do next is examine the relationship between a smile and subjective satisfaction of older adults with dementia. We also hope to clarify the evaluation items of communication and establish an effective way to communicate for older adults with dementia.

Conclusion

I was gratified to learn about experiences and research outcomes of nursing specialists for promoting global health at APNRC 2014. In addition, I was able to discuss our study with many researchers and scholars. I wish to make the most of what I learned on APNRC 2014 for a nursing care, nursing education, and nursing research in Japan.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the facility residents and caregivers who generously participated in the study. Our presentation at APNRC 2014 (author: Shizuka Otsuka) was supported by the International Academic Conference Travel Subsidy from Asahi University.

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Caregiver's Smile Can Make Older Adults With Dementia Smile

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Introduction

- Caregivers tend to evaluate communication with older adults with dementia as effective when they smile in response. A smile is a matter of care for older adults with dementia.
- However, there is no evidence that a caregiver's smile can make older adults with dementia smile even if the caregiver feels like it.

Purpose

This study clarified the changes in the frequency of smiles expressed by older adults with dementia when the caregiver interacted with them while exhibiting a smile and no smiling face.

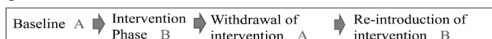
Methods

1) Subjects

12 older residents with dementia in 2 elderly care facilities in Japan.

2) Study design

The ABAB design was conducted using a single-case experimental design.



The A-B-A-B design involves two parts: (1) gathering of baseline information, the application of an intervention and measurement of the effects of this intervention; and (2) measurement of a return to baseline or what happens when the intervention is removed, the intervention is re-introduced, and the subsequent change is measured.

3) Intervention

Caregivers interacted with the older adults with dementia while exhibiting a smile and no smiling face.

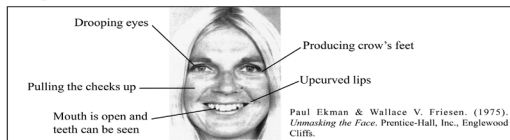
- Intervention A: smile; Intervention B: no smiling face.



- 10 min × 3 interventions in each period (Baseline, Intervention phase, Withdrawal of intervention, Re-introduction of intervention).
- Caregivers contacted subjects with a smile as a mental health follow-up after they finished intervention B.

4) Observation of the smile

- Two observers watched the frequency of smiles of the subjects during upper extremity physical exercises.
- Definition of smile
Two observers assessed smiles using the definition of facial expressions by Ekman and Friesen.



5) Analysis

- Inter-rater agreement between two observers was calculated using Cohen's *k* coefficient.
- The frequency of smiles by each subject was shown in the line graph.

6) Ethical considerations

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of University in Japan.

Results

1) Characteristics of subjects

Mean age (years) : 89.0±5.7

Table 1. Characteristics of subjects (*n* = 12)

Variables	<i>n</i> (%)
Gender	
male	2 (16.7)
female	5 (83.3)
Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR)	
CDR 2	7 (58.3)
CDR 3	5 (41.7)

2) Inter-rater agreement between two observers

The rate of Inter-rater agreement between two observers was high (*k* = 0.853).

3) Frequency of smile of the subjects

- The frequency of smiles expressed by older adults with dementia increased when caregivers interacted with them with a smile, but decreased when caregivers interacted with them with no smiling face (Figure 1).
- This result showed that the caregiver's smile could make the older adults with dementia smile.

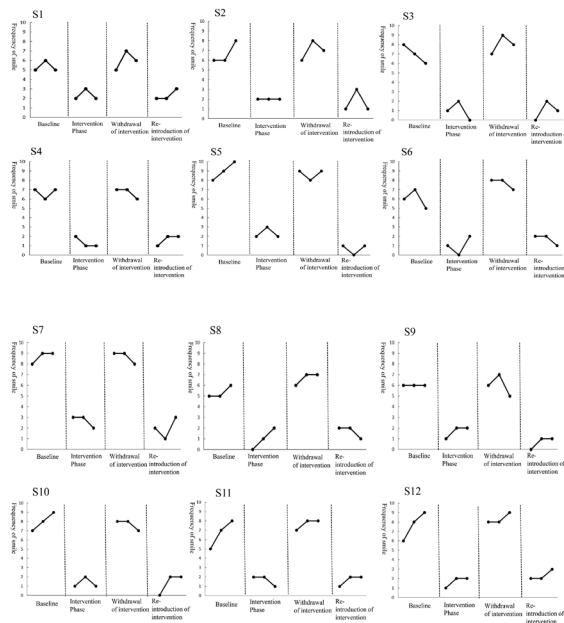


Figure 1. The frequency of smile of the subjects

Implications for practice

- The results of this study provided evidence for the importance of a smile when caregivers communicated with older adults with dementia in elderly care facilities.
- Therefore, the smile of older adults with dementia must be one of their indicators of effective communication with caregivers.