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Understanding touch: Toward a care ethic?

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Introduction: Touch in the care is unavoidable. It's interpretation above questions about what the caregivers have developed as a reflection or strategy to apprehend it in their daily practice. Our survey tried to specify which influence caregivers to touch patients and in which way their own interpretation about patient's feelings affects their posture.

Methodology: Questionnaire and semi-directed interviews were conducted with fourteen health professionals, private caregivers, and hospital caregivers. This group was multi-professional. Verbatims were analyzed and classified according to different topics, then analyzed separately.

Results: Health professionals expressed their concerns and shared their experiences and strategies during care. Whether it is aimed for diagnosis, therapeutic treatment or comfort, touch does not let indifferent. From these issues, we provide benchmarks for caregivers to help them identifying in what touch impact their patients.

Conclusion: Although this work has been carried out on a small group, it's highlight that during professional school teaching there is still a lack of debate about the touch' impact during care. This also implies to include, in professional schools, multi-professional experiences and common ethical reflection on this topic. There must be any discrepancy between science and emotional touch, each other aiming to serve humanity.

Biography

Sylvie Lecomte has based her practice on postural analysis and correction by considering the person as a whole integrating the patient's health issue in all its physical, psychic, emotional, ethical, philosophical and spiritual dimensions. On the occasion of a university degree, she was able to measure the gap between scientific progress and the impoverishment of human relations in the field of health and the urgency to put more sensoriality in the care.

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