

Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation

Abstract Form

In 250-350 words, define the research problem, state the significance of the research, and present the research methodology and plan for analysis. **DO NOT USE A SEPARATE SHEET.**

Background:

Each year in the United States approximately 795,000 people will suffer a stroke (Lloyd-Jones, 2009) Dysphagia is a common sequela of stroke, occurring in approximately 51%-73% of stroke patients (Nam-Jong Paik, 2008). The standard of care for dysphagic patient's include thickened liquids to prevent aspiration. Evidence suggests patients are dissatisfied with thickened liquids and drink fewer liquids. The Frazier Free Water Protocol is an intervention that allows persons with dysphagia who are on thickened liquids to access to regular water between meals after good oral care.

Purpose:

The purpose of this study is to identify if the Frazier Free Water Protocol improves the quality of life for patients with dysphagia who are following a diet of thickened liquids.

Methodology:

The sample size of of this study will consist of 100 – 50 control participants diagnosed with dysphagia admitted to 2 North, a medical/surgical unit and 50 study participants admitted to the Acute Rehabilitation Unit with dysphagia at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital. Inclusion Criteria includes: diagnosis of Oropharyngeal dsyphagia, ability to perform oral care or have a family member perform oral care, and adults between ages 18-95. Exclusion Criteria are: parkinson's disease, dementia, impulsivity, and excessive coughing. Patients will be given a Quality of Life survey - SWAL-QOLa 44 item questionnaire - to determine their perceived contentment. The survey will be given to each participant .4 times - when the patient enters the study, 2 weeks later, again at one month, and finally six months after the patient entered the study.

Data Analysis:

All data will be managed and maintained within an Excel spreadsheet. Descriptive statistics will be used to organize and describe the data set obtained from both the control and study group. Inferential statistics will be used to make inferences from the control group to the study group. A chi-square non-parametric test will be used to determine if what we observe in the distribution of Quality of Life survey frequency scores are what we would expect to occur by chance.