

# CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS AND RELIABILITY OF KOLCABA'S PERIANESTHESIA COMFORT QUESTIONNAIRE

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**KEY WORDS:** Kolcaba, comfort, perioperative period

**PURPOSE:** Comfort in the perioperative period is a desired state from the perspective of patients as well as the providers of their care. In nursing there is a rich historical account of the use of comfort dating to Nightingale's *Notes on Nursing*. In the perioperative period, comfort has been studied from a symptom basis, such as pain, and nausea. Kolcaba views comfort in a more holistic manner and has developed a General Comfort Questionnaire. This tool has established validity and reliability. From this tool, Kolcaba developed a Perianesthesia Comfort Questionnaire (also referred to as Perioperative Comfort Questionnaire). To date there has been no study documenting the reliability of this tool. The purpose of this study is to analyze the conceptual basis of the Perianesthesia Comfort Questionnaire and to test its reliability.

**METHOD:** This study is part of a larger study of comfort in the perioperative period. The questions on the Perianesthesia Comfort Questionnaire will be examined in light of Kolcaba's Taxonomic Structure and the General Comfort Questionnaire. Participants undergoing general anesthesia who will be in hospital for  $\leq 23$  hours will be recruited to the study. For this aspect of the study, participants will complete a demographic questionnaire, Kolcaba's Perianesthesia Comfort Questionnaire and mark a Comfort Visual Analog Scale (VAS). The questions will all refer to the period of time from fasting to induction of general anesthesia.

**FINDINGS:** Descriptive statistics will be computed on all variables; Cronbach's alpha will be computed on Kolcaba's instrument, and a Pearson's r will be computed for the VAS and the Perianesthesia Comfort Questionnaire.

**DISCUSSION:** Comfort is a primary concern of nurse anesthetists, who provide care throughout the perioperative period. Having a valid, reliable instrument measuring comfort will be an important addition in Nurse Anesthesia research and practice.