

ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT OF ACUTE PAIN

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Key words: pain, concept analysis, pain measurement

Purpose: The purpose of this poster is to present an analysis of the concept of acute pain.

Method: Using the theoretical phase of the hybrid model, a model developed by Schwartz-Barcott and Kim, a definition of acute pain was clarified. Through a review of the literature on pain within several disciplines, various definitions were reviewed and measurement of the concept was considered.

Findings: Research indicates that acute pain is a common symptom reported by patients in the hospital. Findings from the literature review revealed pain is under treated in the patient population in the acute care setting. Various reasons for the under treatment of pain were provided in the literature. Nurses' lack of understanding of the concept of acute pain is one possible reason that may lead to the under treatment of the symptom. Pain is defined by the International Association for the Study of Pain as an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage. Many methods of measurement for acute pain have been developed, with the most commonly used measurement being the visual analog scale.

Discussion: Additional research is needed to fully understand the concept of acute pain as it relates to a patient's experience and nurses' understanding of it. This researcher suggests that increasing the nurse's understanding of the concept of acute pain may lead to improving the patient's experience in the hospital as it relates to acute pain and its treatment.