Delivering Nursing Care

Although participants recognised the general importance of technical competence, general nursing care was prioritised by participants.

“They are completely dependent on you. You have to pretty much do everything for them”

The restrictions of IABP therapy and their consequences were of particular concern.

“The muscles in their legs just go to nothing. We’ve had quite a few patients who really really struggled when they first get up”

The role of the physiotherapist emphasised in prevention and rehabilitation. The role of the nurse was less well defined.

IABP: A Double Edged Sword

For many patients IABP therapy was an unpleasant but unavoidable means to an end, representing hope for survival.

“usually they’re told, you’re really sick, you need a balloon pump and if you don’t, well you’re going to die”

Despite the restrictions and potentially long duration of therapy patients were perceived to generally tolerate IABP therapy well. This was linked with a lack of other treatment options. Participants associated the development of this tolerance with the establishment of coping strategies such as routines.

“probably the ones that coped best on it are the ones that started getting a routine into their day...set a routine to the day to basically get them through”

Conclusions

Delivering excellent nursing care was the key focus of the participants in this study. Participants more easily described the physical impact and care of IABP therapy than emotional aspects. To improve upon this, education around emotional needs of IABP is required. Furthermore, research into the patient experience of IABP therapy is essential to underpin person centred nursing.

References


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