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Student Poster Presentation

Virtual Reality Simulation and Nursing Students

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Nursing education is facing a dilemma of decreased clinical site opportunities for various reasons resulting in innovative ways to provide clinical education being developed. Simulation has been used and developed over the past decade and in the last several years virtual simulation has been added. The concept of virtual reality entering the nursing education environment could lead to future best practices for enhanced education outside of a true clinical environment. An evidence search was conducted in the CINAHL database with key words nurse and virtual reality or vSIM and PubMed database with key words nurse and virtual reality. Five primary research studies were found, and an evidence appraisal was conducted. Findings during this review concluded the use of virtual reality could assist or might enhance the learning environment, however additional research is needed. Virtual reality simulation could have the capabilities to help prepare student nurses with a stronger skill set, improved abilities to respond to real nursing experiences and greater confidence to independently care for the sick upon graduation. The purpose of this project was to systematically analyze existing literature on the use of virtual reality simulation and the effectiveness on nursing student's skill sets.