Nursing Management of the Child with Congenital Heart Disease: Principle and Practice

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Abstract:
Congenital heart diseases (CHD) are uncommonly found in children. They occur due to abnormal forming of cardiovascular system mostly during the 6th to 8th weeks of gestational age. CHDs are divided into two types: 1) Acyanotic heart diseases and 2) Cyanotic heart diseases. These cardiac diseases alter patients' cardiovascular physiology and hemodynamic circulation, which cause major critical complications e.g., congestive heart failure and anoxic spells. These complications could be lethal. Therefore pediatric cardiac nurses should clearly understand about CHD including cardiac structure, pathophysiology and major cardiac complications. This would make them deeply understand and provide better and holistic care to the patients and their families effectively. In addition, principle and guideline of nursing care should focus on patients and family education. Pediatric cardiac nurses should provide essential health information and instruct the parents to take care of their CHD children effectively and family well being. While being admitted in the hospital, the most important role is that nurses have to provide efficient clinical nursing care to this group of patient, especially the ones with complications e.g., congestive heart failure and anoxic spells etc. This role will result in survival and quality of life.

Keywords: pediatric, congenital heart disease, nursing care