Delivering Safe, Quality Care to Deaf Older Adults is More Than American Sign Language
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**FINDINGS**
- 100% of respondents strongly agreed with the statements: “The group discussion was a useful debriefing session.”
- 77% of respondents strongly agreed with the statements: “Educating students about deaf ASL users and the Deaf community was a worthwhile experience.”
- 59% of respondents strongly agreed with the statements: “Being more understanding and patient when working with deaf patients and families was a positive experience.”
- 55% of respondents strongly agreed with the statements: “The information folder handed to you prior to BDHC was helpful.”

**Simulation Exercise**
- For the educational lecture and simulation session, half of the students participated in a 2-hour lecture before taking the BDHC simulation, while the other half participated in the lecture and simulation together.

**Methods**
- The simulation exercise involved actors who were deaf ASL users from Rochester’s Deaf community. The actors pretended to be physicians, nurses, psychiatrists, pharmacists, receptionists, and waiting room visitors. The students were asked to use a fictitious scenario card that described the student’s fictitious reason for seeking medical care and the student’s preferred mode of communication. The students then had to interact with the actors and complete a folder with information from the actors. The students were asked to use the folder to guide their interactions with the actors and to take notes on their interactions. After completing the simulation, the students were asked to complete an evaluation form, which included open-ended questions and Likert scale items. The evaluation form also included questions about the students’ perspectives on the relevance/significance of this simulation exercise to their future interactions with patients who are Deaf.

**Adjectives to Describe BDHC**
- Challenging
- Boring
- Inspiring
- Frustrating
- Useful
- Inspiring
- Playing time was used effectively.

**Plans for Practice**
- All respondents indicated that they plan to implement at least one practice change as a result of the BDHC training program. Examples of their plans include:
  - Using the "Deaf" label instead of "hearing impaired" or "hard of hearing" when referring to patients who are Deaf.
  - Asking deaf patients about their communication preferences.
  - Increasing their awareness of the needs and preferences of deaf patients.
  - Using sign language in clinical settings.

**Conclusion**
- This study has demonstrated the feasibility of adapting/implementing the simulation as a part of a nursing education program. Further research is needed to determine the effectiveness of this simulation exercise in improving nursing students’ knowledge and skills in working with deaf ASL users.