

# COMMUNICATION NURSE-PATIENT IN UROLOGY: THE SEXUALITY

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## INTRODUCTION:

The nursing comprehends 4 fundamental concepts: person, environment, health and assistance. In particular the assistance is based on 4 key words: health recovery, health support, patient "decision maker", holism.

An holistic assistance means the nursing skill to give the adequate space to everything that may appear irrelevant for the medical treatment but it is essential for the care of the person. The need of sexuality remains often forgotten, due to the increasing "medicalization" of our professionalism, and

practically we are unable to understand and explain to the patient some modifications of his sexuality after an urological procedure.

Retain important to ameliorate this essential aspect of nursing, beginning from our knowledges and our communication skills, we proposed a

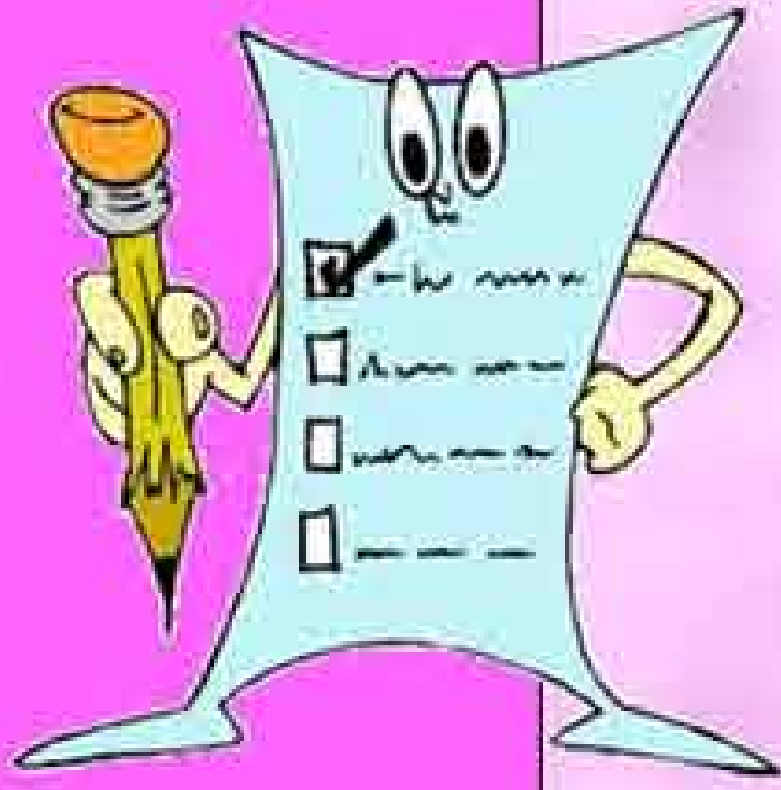
questionnaire in our ward.



## MATERIAL AND METHODS:



A questionnaire was given to all nurses operating in the ward of Urology. The questions were formulated about the specific urological/andrological knowledges about postoperative sexuality and about the communication/interpersonal skills with the patient. Our data were compared with similar series.



## RESULTS:

Twelve nurses (7 females and 5 males) employed in our ward of Urology answered to the questionnaire. The mean seniority in Urology was 6.3 years (range 13 years-6 months).

The more interesting emerged aspects were: a perceived need of sexuality; the nurse may identify the problem but the management goes out from the nursing duties; poor knowledges; great embarrassment blocking the communication.



## CONCLUSIONS:

To overcome this important gap and to guarantee an efficacy support to several patients, in late 2009 we created a pilot project building a team of 2 psychologists, 3 urologists/andrologists and 2 nurses. The patients treated for prostate (robotic prostatectomy) or bladder cancer (continent or non continent cystectomy) were followed in the preoperative and postoperative phase, with a direct contact with this team. The dialogue created great satisfaction for patients, nurses and physicians and appears the right way to walk in the future.