



Child Health Evaluative Sciences Program Weekly Rounds Presentation

Monday, March 12, 2018 ♦ Noon – 1:00p.m.

SickKids, Peter Gilgan Centre for Research & Learning / CHES Conference Room 11.9701
686 Bay Street, Toronto

The pain experience in hospitalized children: The impact of hospital clowns on hospitalized children undergoing painful procedures

Summary/Objectives: The purpose of this PhD study is to investigate the impact of the hospital clown as a non-pharmacological intervention on 4 to 15-year-old hospitalized children's pain experience and coping during painful procedures in both short, and long-term treatment and care.

This study will help contribute to the existing knowledge in relation to children's pain experience and management of pain related to painful procedures.

A mixed-method design was used consisting of three phases:

- A prospective, randomized open-label trial to identify whether exposure to the hospital clown has an effect on **short-term** hospitalized children's pain experiences during venipunctures.
- An ethnographic study to explore the interaction between the **short-term** hospitalized child and the hospital clown, and the interaction's influence on pain experience and coping.
- An ethnographic study to explore the influence of the hospital clown on **long-term** hospitalized children with cancer in repeated painful procedures.

Helle Nygaard Kristensen RN, MCN, PhD(c)



Helle is an RN, MCN, and PhD student, affiliated with Pediatrics & Clinical Nursing Research Unit, Aalborg University Hospital and Aalborg University, Denmark. Helle is currently completing a 3-month practicum as part of the recommended international collaboration in her PhD program.

Helle has a background in pediatric nursing since 1988. She has worked as a clinical nurse with children with cancer for 10 years and has since moved to a leadership role in pediatric nursing for 18 years. Through her various roles, she has systematically worked to contribute to the field by developing and evaluating targeted interventions for treatment and care for hospitalized children. She has a special interest in the child perspective and collaborations with children and families with the "child voice" in mind. She was responsible for the implementation and collaboration with hospital clowns at the Pediatric Unit, Aalborg University Hospital, Denmark, in 2004.

