

**Part A:** Select just one (not both) of the articles from the week two DQ assignment thread. Determine whether the article is qualitative or quantitative research, then, using an academic voice & APA formatted citations/references, formulate a 150-300 word response to each of the following sections and enter your responses into the textboxes below.

1. Using APA format, enter the reference for the article you reviewed. Explain the rationale for selecting this research article and how it relates to your own practice.

Chen, Y., Wang, X., Ding, W., Wu, L., & Zhao, X. (2020). Perceptions and Life Experiences of Patients With Wound Healing by Secondary Intention After the Removal of Thoracic Drainage Tube. *Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing*, 47(2), 124–127. <https://doi.org/10.1097/won.0000000000000617>

I chose this article because, in hospice, we view the patient holistically and their perceptions help guide the creation of the nursing care plan. This is a qualitative study research article where the perceptions of the patients are the focus. We all agree that quality is important in nursing care. But, one could think of quality and pain perceptions as both being what the patient says it is because they are both subjective in nature. “The patients’ perceptions are central to quality improvement of the healthcare system worldwide” (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). In nursing school, I was taught to meet the patient where they are. In other words, determine their level of understanding, their needs, their goals, and so on. Then, use this information to navigate your approach to their care, education, and plan of care so that you are meeting them at their level and working on taking them to a higher level of care and understanding. The benefit of this is that it typically induces cooperation and participation within the plan of care and results in better outcomes. The article I chose is looking for patient perception on healing wounds using secondary intention, a method where wounds are left open to a drain tube due to risks such as infection or large amount of tissue loss. The authors chose this subject because there was little information on it. Although qualitative research is more casual than quantitative research, qualitative research is a way to gather information to see where improvements are needed. This is an important part of the improvement process for healthcare. According to OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), quality of care is the “cornerstone” of improvement (*Health Care Quality and Outcomes* - OECD, n.d.).

2. Describe how you determined whether the selected research article is qualitative or quantitative.

This article simply states in the abstract that the study design is a qualitative phenomenological study. The authors state that it is a qualitative study as part of the title of the article. The NIH defines phenomenology as “a form of qualitative research that focuses on the study of an

individual's lived experiences within the world" (Neubauer et al., 2019). Based on this week's lectures, it can also be determined that this is a qualitative study because it is gathering subjective information by using interviews to gain insight into patient perceptions. When the spoken word is the common theme, you are reading a qualitative study. Streefkerk describes qualitative studies as being used to understand experiences through interviews, observations, and literary reviews to understand thoughts, ideas, or experiences (Streefkerk, 2019). In the abstract of the article, you can see that the method is listed as semi structured interviews. On page 125 of the article under the subheadings Method and Study Procedures, it is stated that interviews were used to gather information. If it were a quantitative study, causality would be the theme and you would see values and scales such as the probability value and a numerical rating scale such as the one to ten scale.

**Part B: Based on the selected research, formulate a response to each of the following 8 questions associated with the selected research type (qualitative or quantitative). Enter your thoughtful responses to the textboxes below. Each response should be 150 - 300 words and cited using APA style from your reference list.**

1. Why is IRB/informed consent an important part of research? Determine if Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval/informed consent obtained. If the research was done outside of the United States, the review body may go under a different name.

IRB (Institutional Review Board) is important during research because it protects the rights and welfare of participants in the study. The IRB operates under FDA regulations. Members of the IRB may be affiliated inside or outside of the agency doing the research. They cannot be a member of the IRB if they have a conflict of interest for the study for which they are being utilized. One way the IRB protects the rights and welfare of participants in research is by reviewing the Informed Consents of the participants of the study. Informed consent is a written explanation of the study that allows the participant to consider all critical aspects of the study (risks, benefits, commitment, etc.) and ask any questions they may have about the study. The informed consent requires a signature from the participant. The signed form serves as proof that critical information about the study was provided to that participant allowing the participant to make an 'informed decision' prior to participating in the research project using their own free will. As stated in this week's lectures, IRB and informed consent are "non-negotiables" and it is unlikely that the article would have been published without them. This study was performed in China and did not require permission from the Chinese Ethics Committee. However, there was a review board for the procedures of this study; The First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University.

2. Describe (based on selected research type)
  - a. **Qualitative article:** the purpose statement - or -
  - b. **Quantitative article:** the problem and purpose of the research

“The purpose of this study was to explore the perceptions and experiences of patients with wound healing by secondary intention after the removal of a thoracic drainage tube” (Chen et al., 2020). In the study, the authors state that there is little information available about the secondary intention healing of wounds. As one reviews the Strengths and Limitations section of the article, it is noted that the authors believe this is the first study on this topic. There was a belief stated by the authors that secondary intention wound healing has received “inadequate attention.” The goal of the study was to explore the psychological effects after the drainage tube from the secondary intention wound healing process is removed. Data was collected through the interview process using the same questions for all of the participants to learn about their perceptions and life experiences in relation to the secondary intention wound healing process.

3. Describe (based on selected research type)
  - a. **Qualitative article:** research design – or –
  - b. **Quantitative article:** the research questions

According to the abstract, the design of this research study was “a qualitative phenomenological study” (Chen et al., 2020). Deakin University defines phenomenology as:

“(…) one of the most commonly used methodologies in qualitative research (….) used to describe how human beings experience a certain phenomenon. The researcher asks, ‘What is this experience like?’, ‘What does this experience mean?’ or ‘How does this ‘lived experience’ present itself to the participant?’ Attempts to set aside biases and preconceived assumptions about human experiences, feelings, and responses to a particular situation. Experience may involve perception, thought, memory, imagination, and emotion or feeling. Usually (but not always) involves a small sample of participants (approx. 10-15). Analysis includes an attempt to identify themes or, if possible, make generalizations in relation to how a particular phenomenon is perceived or experienced” (Deakin University, 2021). The purpose of this research method is to be able to describe how an individual’s life has been affected by something he/she experienced. Research for this method is accomplished through observation, the use of open-ended interview questions, conversation, and focused workshops.

4. Explain in your own words a summary of the literature review used in the selected article.

I feel the literature review of this study on secondary intention wound healing was limited to the Chinese culture and a smaller than usual group of participants; 9 instead of 10-15. The participant sampling was evenly covered with regard to sex. There were 5 female and 4 male participants. According to the literature review, the researchers used the same sample screening process for the potential participants. They also used the same interview procedure for each of the participants. In doing so, there is an element of consistency. Results were audio taped and transcribed verbatim. The responses were listed in the study in quotation marks without disclosing the names of the participants. The age range for the 9 participants was 18-90 years of age. That is a 72-year age span for 9 individuals. There are many pathophysiological differences across those ages. I see good and bad in using such a large age range for such a

small group of participants. On one hand, the study came up with commonalities for such a large age span. However, I think taking several small groups of 10 participants each that are all within a 10 year span and gathering the data of each group and then comparing group data to group data may yield more age appropriate findings that can provide more individualized responses to the effects of secondary intention wound care. Overall, the study showed that these types of wounds care situations impact everyone similarly. However, it also demonstrates the need for more specific research.

5. Identify (based on selected research type)
  - a. **Qualitative:** the data collection method(s) - or -
  - b. **Quantitative:** the study design, including sample, setting, & data collection methods.

For this qualitative study, data was collected through the use of “semi structured interviews [that] were digitally audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Analysis of data was performed using Colaizzi’s 7-step thematic analysis” (Chen et al., 2020). The seven steps were (1) read all interview data; (2) extract significant statements; (3) formulate meaning; (4) organize meanings into themes; (5) integrate study findings; (6) formulate description of the phenomenon; (7) validate findings. This method seems to be used frequently and considered reliable. I have included several quotes to support this interpretation: “The accurate application of Colaizzi’s process of descriptive phenomenology would provide an exhaustive description to the body of knowledge about human experience and therefore would be an effective strategy to establish the basis for future research” (Shosha, n.d.). “Colaizzi’s ( 1978 ) method of data analysis is rigorous and robust, and therefore a qualitative method that ensures the credibility and reliability of its results. It allows researchers to reveal emergent themes and their interwoven relationships” (L et al., 2018).

6. Analyze (based on selected research type)
  - a. **Qualitative:** the results of the research study - or -
  - b. **Quantitative:** the data collection tool used; is the tool validated?

The results of the research study were determined after the data collected underwent analysis. Extensive review of interview data was performed to gain a “comprehensive understanding” of the life experiences reported related to the research topic, in this case secondary intention wound healing. The team members work together using discussion and agreement to identify the prominent themes in the participant responses. The team works hard to remain cohesive in their analysis. In this study, two team members pulled data from the study during their analysis. To promote the reliability of the study, other team members reviewed the “validated” the findings of the two team members as a way to validate their agreement on the findings. The major themes were (1) emotional stress response that included surprise, anxiety, and uncertainty, (2) increased disease burden due to the economic toll on the patient/family and the caregiver strain due to the time and energy needed for patient’s wound care, and (3) impaired social function as a result of loneliness, frustration, and isolation (Chen et al., 2020).

7. Summarize (based on selected research type)
  - a. **Qualitative:** conclusions and implications for further research - or -
  - b. **Quantitative:** study results, including strengths & limitations.

The study concluded that patients experience emotional stress, economic burdens, and impaired social functioning due to wound healing by secondary intention. Because of these implications, more research is needed to develop collaboration between the physicians and nurses during preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative times so that appropriate patient and/or staff education can be provided on ways to improve healing of secondary intention sites after removal of drains. Some topics for this education for the healthcare staff would be infection control and suturing techniques. Some topics of education for patients would be what signs and symptoms to report to their healthcare providers, such as hematomas or abnormal drainage. The goal of this education would be to reduce the negative emotional, economic, and social impacts while promoting optimal healing by involving the physician, nurse, and patient in the plan of care. By increasing knowledge, there is an increased ability to respond appropriately and in a timelier manner to the circumstances that impede wound healing.

8. Discuss why is this research important to the body of WOC nursing knowledge

“The value of the WOC nurse's role is demonstrated by the achievement of positive patient outcomes, which is based on a comprehensive risk assessment, effective prevention and treatment strategies, and patient and staff education” (*Lippincott NursingCenter*, 2022). As I indicated above, patient quality care leads to better outcomes. Better quality care for patients begins with better prepared healthcare staff. Patient's perceptions are the “cornerstone” for quality improvement. If WOC nurses have the knowledge the need to manage secondary intention wounds, they become better educators and advocates for their patients. Patient care is a team effort. It takes the physician, the nurse, and the patient working together for toward a common goal to achieve optimal results and minimize complications. As noted above, qualitative research is the foundation for establishing additional research needs. This research gives the WOC nurse a direction to focus on by showing the WOC nurse where the issues may be arising from.

9. Use APA format to list your references for this assignment:

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Streefkerk, R. (2019, April 12). *Qualitative vs. quantitative research | definitions, differences & methods*. Scribbr. <https://www.scribbr.com/methodology/qualitative-quantitative-research/>