

Understanding Research Articles/ Cleveland Clinic WOC Nursing Education

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Points criteria:

Criteria	Under performance <3 points per criteria	Basic 3 – 3.9 points per criteria	Proficient 4.0 – 4.4 points per criteria	Distinguished 4.5 – 5 points per criteria
Required content objectives	Content objectives are missing or sparsely covered.	Content objectives are not consistently addressed. Demonstrates minimal understanding of content.	Content objectives consistently addressed. Demonstrates understanding of content.	Content objectives consistently addressed. Demonstrates mastery of content.
Academic writing standards	Writing lacks scholarly tone & focus. Sparse content. Multiple grammatical, spelling, & factual errors. Reliance on bullet points rather than effective writing in speaker notes. 4 or more direct quotes per project.	Writing is unclear and/or disorganized. Inconsistent scholarly tone. Inadequate depth of content. Grammatical and spelling errors. No more than 3 direct quote of less than 40 words per project.	Writing demonstrates general exploration of content. Responses are clearly written using scholarly tone. Few grammatical and/or spelling errors. No more than 2 direct quote of less than 40 words per project.	Writing demonstrates comprehensive exploration of content. Responses are clearly written using scholarly tone. Rare grammatical and/or spelling errors. No more than 1 direct quote of less than 40 words per project.
APA formatting	References and citations have multiple errors or are missing.	References and citations have errors.	References and citations have few errors.	References and citations have rare errors.

Carefully review the above rubric and the directions for each of the following pages. Select from **one** of the two articles provided in the course discussions area. Based on the type of research selected, respond to the questions on the following pages.

References: *See the course syllabus for specific requirements on references for all assignments.*

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.**

- 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: a qualitative study. *Journal of Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing*, 47(2), 124–127. <https://doi.org/10.1097/WON.0000000000000617>

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I chose Chen et al. (2020) article “Perceptions and life experiences of patients with wound healing by secondary intention after the removal of thoracic drainage tube: a qualitative study” for several specific reasons. First and foremost, the hospital I work for recently had a specialized thoracic surgeon join the healthcare team at our campus. Due to the surgical specialty and frequent use of thoracic drain tubes in this specific patient population, I found this article intriguing and useful for our practice and the improvement of care for the new patient population. Additionally, even though this article focuses on wound healing by secondary intention after the removal of a thoracic drain tube, I found the patient testimonials could apply to any patient who unexpectedly experiences a surgical wound healing by secondary intention. Several patients I provide direct patient care to are often discharged with open surgical wounds, typically abdominal to heal by secondary intention, with the need for long-term dressing changes or negative pressure wound vacuum therapy. McCaughan et al. (2018) also explore the impact of wound healing by secondary intention on a variety of surgical wounds including abdominal, spinal, limb amputation, extremities, and axilla. Their qualitative research demonstrated similar findings to that of Chen et al. (2020) which focused primarily on thoracic drain tube removal sites. I have also had a personal experience as a patient who experienced surgical wound healing by secondary intention. I can directly relate to the patient testimonials while caring for my own open surgical wound after a cesarean birth for twelve weeks post-operative, post-partum. The work of these researchers Chen et al. (2020) and McCaughan et al. (2018) have immeasurable value to the patients and caregivers.

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

The title of the research by Chen et al. (2020) article “Perceptions and life experiences of patients with wound healing by secondary intention after the removal of thoracic drainage tube: a qualitative study” indicates it is a qualitative research study. Additionally, the abstract information at the beginning of the article tells the reader that the design of the study is qualitative phenomenological. Qualitative research is a “rigorous systematic and interactive process that gives individuals the opportunity to describe their life experience as open-ended questions are asked. It is subjective research.” The presenter continues to define qualitative research as research with the goal to help caregivers understand the human experience, with a holistic focus that is dialectic in nature, a method of intellectual investigation (R.B. Turnbull, Jr. MD School of WOC Nursing Education, 2022, p. 8). The methods of the research in the reviewed article by Chen et al., (2020) indicate the patients were interviewed during the clinic visits and were willing to share personal experiences. “Data were collected through a semi-structured interview using a phenomenological approach and characterized by openness and reflexivity.” (Chen et al., 2020). The patients were given the opportunity to describe phenomena as they presented, giving the interviewer a deeper understanding of the patient’s experience (Chen et al., 2020).

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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.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and informed consent are important to the research process for two essential reasons. IRB and informed consent ensure appropriate standards are met in the research process and it protects human rights (R.B. Turnbull, Jr. MD School of WOC Nursing Education, 2022). The IRB is a group under the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) regulation that is formally designed to review and monitor biomedical research involving human subjects. The IRB reviews informed consent to ensure there is documented evidence that the subject has been provided and educated about their participation in the research (Office of the Commissioner et al., 2019). In the research article, Chen et al. (2020) indicates approval from the Chinese Ethics Committee was not required because of the provision excluding interview studies not involving biological material. However, the research was reviewed and in compliance with the Ethical Committee of The First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University with Declaration of Helsinki. The authors indicate that the research study participants were recruited after hospital discharge and interviewed during clinic visits in May 2018. The terminology informed consent was not specifically referenced, but the patients had to be willing to share their personal experiences (Chen et al., 2020)

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 statement of this research article is 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). The investigators found there to be very little information regarding the patient experience while recovering from wound healing by secondary intention after the removal of a thoracic drainage tube. There is existing research surrounding the impact of wound healing by secondary intention on patients with other surgical wounds and chronic wounds. Wounds that heal via secondary intention must granulate over time. This process can take weeks and be unpredictable. Granulation tissue deposition and wound contraction, followed by a slow epithelization process can lead to a high rate of opportunity for adverse events (Beitz, 2020). The phenomenological approach to the research and open-ended questioning helped the investigators understand how the extended period of time the wound took to heal by secondary intention impacted the subjects psychologically, their emotional well-being, perceptions of the phenomena, and life experience through the healing process (Chen et al., 2020).

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

The research design of the research article written by Chen et al., is a qualitative phenomenological study (2020). Phenomenology is the “study of the development of the human consciousness and self-awareness as a preface to or a part of philosophy” (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). Therefore, a qualitative phenomenological study explores the subjects’ perception of their experience during a specific event; in this case, wound healing by secondary intention. The researchers used an interactive subject approach that describes life experiences and gives them meaning to promote understanding. The researchers accomplished this through semi-structured interviews with open-endedness and reflexivity. A qualitative phenomenological study allows for a deeper understanding of the patient experience, intending to capture the emotional changes and feelings of the patients while experiencing wound healing by secondary intention over several weeks (Chen et al., 2020). Part of the research design is to ensure comparability and consistency in otherwise subjective data collection. The participants were approached, enrolled, and interviewed with the same questions, by the same researcher in the same environment (Chen et al., 2020).

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

The literature reviewed by the researchers for the article “Perceptions and life experiences of patients with wound healing by secondary intention after the removal of thoracic drainage tube: a qualitative study” includes both information about wound healing methods and similar qualitative research on wounds caused by other etiologies and surgical procedures. The investigators reference statistical data from research done on other surgical incisions that were intentionally left open or opened due to dehiscence, such as abdominal surgical incisions, and chronic wounds such as leg ulcers. In the researchers’ opinion, the amount of information regarding the patient experience after the removal of a thoracic drainage tube that healed by secondary intention was lacking. The research referenced in the article suggested there is a need for improvement of surgical technique, the diameter of the incision, fixation of the tubing, and continued assessment of the tube site after removal. These wounds and their effects on the patient and overall patient delayed recovery receive inadequate attention. The researchers found information about the dressings and topical treatment for thoracic drainage tube wound healing by secondary intention, yet there was little information about the patient perception and life experience. (Chen et al, 2020).

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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.

The data collection method for this research article was a process of interviewing Chinese-speaking patients who had a chest wound after the removal of a thoracic drainage tube. Patients approached ranged in age from 18-90 years. The patients had been discharged from the hospital and recruited at the Outpatient Department of the Wound Ostomy and Incontinence of The First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University. All the patients considered for the research study received standard postoperative wound care, with the thoracic drainage tube being removed before hospital discharge, with a sutured wound left undisturbed with removal 14 days postoperative. Subjects were excluded if they could not speak or understand Chinese, had a psychological disorder, inability to participate in an in-depth interview due to hearing or vision, or were unwilling to share personal experiences. 15 potential patients were approached, and 9 participants were included in the final study. These 9 participants included 4 males, and 5 females, ages 22-67 years. Statistical data collected included profession, healing time in days, number of dressing changes, and total expense associated with dressing changes. The 9 participants answered questions during their May 2018 clinic visits, all conducted in the same clinical environment asked by the same researcher. Each interview took 30 to 45mins and was recorded and transcribed. The questions asked were as follows: “What were the effects of delayed wound healing on your life? Could you talk about your current thoughts on this wound? What was the most significant impact you have encountered during hospitalization and wound healing process? Why was that?” (Chen et al., 2020, p125).

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?

Yi Chen conducted all the interviews and when data collection was completed, a 7-step thematic analysis was performed by Yi Chen and Wei Ding. The interviews were read, significant statements extracted, the meaning was formulated and organized into themes, study findings were integrated, a description of the phenomenon was formulated, then finding were validated by a separate researcher, Xun Wang. From this data analysis, 3 major themes were identified with 2 subthemes for each of the major themes (Chen et al, 2020). The 3 themes identified were 1) emotional stress response, including surprise and anxiety, 2) increased disease burden, both economic and self-perceived burden, and finally 3) impaired social function such as loneliness, frustration, and isolation. Chen et al., summarize that the participants who experienced prolonged wound healing by secondary intention after the removal of a thoracic drainage tube were surprised to be faced with a non-healing wound and the frequency of dressing changes needed during the healing process. Many

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asked how did this happen? And why me? Others were concerned about how food could affect healing, and the pain of dressing changes. There was concern about the financial expense of travel for care and the cost of dressings as well as the time investment for each. Participants reported feeling isolated socially and professionally, affecting income and relationships. The researchers' findings suggest emotional stress may be a precursor to delayed healing and further compromise healing (Chen, et al., 2020). Extrinsic factors including psychophysiological stress and depression can negatively affect the immune function needed for wound healing by releasing high levels of the hormone cortisol. High level of cortisol production has a cascading negative effect that contributes to poor wound healing (Netsch, 2022).

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

To the researchers' knowledge, this is the first study conducted on the patient perception and experience of wound healing after the removal of a thoracic drainage tube by secondary intention. The conclusion of this study includes enhancing patient education about self-management and healthcare providers anticipating the need to guide the patient during the healing process. To reduce the emotional stress, economic burden, and isolation, the patient needs to be educated about the risk of wound healing by secondary intention after the removal of a thoracic drainage tube prior to the surgery. The researchers suggest further research is needed regarding the physician-nurse collaboration model to reduce the emotional burden patients experience preoperatively, intraoperatively, and postoperatively which ultimately contributes to poor wound healing after the removal of a thoracic drainage sponge (Chen et al., 2020). Netsch, D. also references the positive impact of stress management on improved wound healing (2022). Essentially, patients need to be provided with information about the emotional and psychological risk factors associated with a thoracotomy with a thoracic drainage tube in addition to the physical risk factors that are included in the patient surgical consent document.

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

The research of Chen et al., focused on the patient experience during an unanticipated surgical complication (2020). Their work is particularly important because nurses must focus on the patient as a whole with both clinical knowledge and compassion for each patient situation. The wound care nurse in particular is spending dedicated time with the patient providing care to a wound that is often unexpected or not healing as initially anticipated. Wound care nurses have to be prepared to provide answers to hard questions from patients, many of the same questions that were asked by the participants in the research. Addressing the emotional concerns of patients experiencing prolonged and often painful wound healing is an important aspect of patient care. After the surgery is complete, it is the nurse who is providing the wound care and answering patient questions. Wound care nurses often spend more time providing emotional support and encouragement than time spent performing actual wound care. We provide emotional support, nutrition

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education, dressing change education, and demonstration, while wound assessment and care are being provided in any care setting. Our bedside manner and ability to listen in a way that demonstrates we understand the patient experience and how it is affecting their life is a significant part of the WOC nurses' role. While this particular article focuses on wound care and healing by secondary intention, each aspect of the WOC nursing tri-specialty requires a similar awareness and compassion for the patient experience. Wounds, ostomies, and continence dysfunction each greatly affect the patients' lifestyle both physically and emotionally. Having compassion and sensitivity to the patient's lifestyle changes is equally important as the technique of the direct care WOC nurses provide.

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

References

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