

## Background & Significance

### Background

- Nurses traditionally wore white because it instilled cleanliness, professionalism and asepsis.
- Today nurses can wear an array of colors based on hospital policy.
- During the 1900s, worries regarding eye strain in the operating room led to the adoption of green as the preferred uniform color for OR staff.

### Significance

- People often make assumptions whether positive or negative based on a person's appearance.
- Given that a somewhat more casual dress code has been given to nurses, we wanted to explore the types of perception patients have.
- Connections have been made between a nurses scrub attire, whether style or color, to their education level and skills.

## Purpose of the Scoping Review is to...

- The purpose of this scoping review is to examine the association between the specific color of scrubs worn by healthcare professionals and patient's perception.
- Research suggests there is an association between a physician's attire and patient confidence in them, as well as patients' ability to perceive clinician trustworthiness, intelligence, and empathy.

Association Between Patient Perception of Surgeons and Color of Scrub Attire	We examined whether scrub color is associated with the ability to be perceived as a surgeon and the perception of selected clinician character traits.	January 11, 2023 Rigorous sampling and survey question design	Across all participants, black scrubs were most commonly chosen for negative character traits while blue scrubs were most commonly chosen for positive traits.
Perception of Nurse Caring, Skills, and Knowledge Based on Appearance	The purpose of the study was to assess differences among perceptions of patients, nurses, nursing faculty, and nursing students regarding nurse caring, skill, and knowledge based on attire and level of visible body art.	November 2010 A descriptive comparative design was used	For the entire sample, the nurse wearing the solid scrub was rated significantly more skilled and knowledgeable than a nurse wearing print or T-shirt attire.
Nursing attire: Indicators of professionalism?	The purpose of this qualitative research was to explore the effect that current nursing attire has on the image of the nursing profession.	May 1st, 1999 Content analysis was performed on transcriptions from the tape-recorded responses of a purposeful sample of health care workers	Two themes emerged 1.) "I can't tell you what it is, but I know it when I see it." 2.) "Total package," with role identification and competency being related themes.

## What is Known

- The results of these studies could help healthcare workers, including nursing administrators, recognize the significance of nursing apparel as a sign of professionalism.
- Studies showed that to be perceived as skilled and knowledgeable, nurses should wear a solid colored uniform with limited visible body art.
- Different colored scrubs can improve staff morale, streamline workflow, and make it easier for patients to go around the facility.
- Can assist newly hired staff members in more quickly recognizing their coworkers and inspire existing staff members to develop a sense of identity.
- The color of scrubs worn by healthcare workers should be purposeful and data based.
- Deeper relationships between patients, staff members, and the healthcare setting itself can be fostered by being aware of the underlying meanings behind each color of scrubs.

## What is Next?

- Future studies should address limitations, including using a wider variety of physician models, collecting additional demographic information, and employing more rigorous sampling and survey question design.
- Supervisors should talk to students about how patients' opinions of their professional ability can be influenced by how they present themselves
- It would be beneficial to assess these patient perception in not just acute healthcare settings, but in community based settings.
- In both acute and community-based health care settings, further research is required to examine how patients' opinions of nursing dress attire impact interactions between nurses and clients.

## Search Procedures and Parameters

### Databases Used

- Pubmed
- nursinguniforms.net
- jamanetwork.com

### Key Words

- Scrub colors
- Healthcare bias
- Skill level
- Medical professionals

## References

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