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Search..

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Ensuring trustworthiness in qualitative research 9  
J Gunawan  
Belitung Nursing Journal 1 (1), 10-11

Effect of Massage and Aromatherapy on Stress and Prolactin Level among Primiparous Puerperal Mothers In Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia 4  
MN Widayati, S Hadisaputro, A Anies, A Soejoenoe

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[Home](#) > [Vol 6, No 1 \(2020\)](#)

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**UTILIZATION OF A SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM TO DEVELOP CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMING FOR PROMOTING NURSING PRACTICE IN CAMBODIA**

Karen Simon Reed  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.714>

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HEPATITIS B AND C CO-INFECTION AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS IN VIETNAM**

Le Hieu Thuy Anh, Suchada Thaweesit  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.813>

**IDENTIFICATION OF URINARY INCONTINENCE IN PEOPLE AGED 65 AND OVER: A TURKEY SAMPLE**

Birsel Canan DEMİRBAĞ, Gulpinar ASLAN, Ayşe Berivan BAKAN  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.175>

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[Peer Review Process](#)

[Editorial Process](#)

[Article Processing Charge \(APC\)](#)

[Publication Ethics & Malpractice Statement](#)

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PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Deeni Rudita Idris, Nur Shazwana Hassan, Norashikin Sofian  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.702>

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO MEDICATION ERRORS AS PERCEIVED BY NURSING STUDENTS IN ILIGAN CITY, PHILIPPINES

Khandy Lorraine Guerrero Apsay, Gianille Geselle Alvarado, Marlon Charles Paguntalan, Sittie Hannah Tumog  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.566>

CHALLENGES IN NURSING EDUCATION IN CAMBODIA: A PERSPECTIVE FROM A NURSE

Chanvatanak LY  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.651>

ADDRESSING VIEWS OF KEY INFORMANTS WHO ARE WORKING FOR WOMEN RIGHTS REGARDING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Nan Kyipyar Si  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.142>

FATIGUE IN PATIENTS WITH CHOLANGIOPANCREATIC DISEASE: TREAT OR WAIT-AND-SEE?

Surachai Maninet, Khwanprapat Chanbunlawat  
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Posted: 2019-09-16

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## VOL 6, No 1 (2020): JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2020

### FULL ISSUE

[View or download the full issue](#)

PDF

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTS OF REMINISCENCE THERAPY ALONE AND IN COMBINATION WITH PSYCHOEDUCATION THERAPY ON DEPRESSION LEVEL OF ELDERLY IN INDONESIA: A QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

PDF

1-7

Sutinah Sutinah  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.1048>

| Abstract views: 43 | views: 31

EFFECT OF USING AN ANDROID-BASED MODULE ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF NURSING STUDENTS ABOUT THE PROVISION OF TRANSCULTURAL NURSING

PDF

8-13

Apriani Susmita Sari, Elsi Dwi Hapsari, Widyawati Widyawati  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.783>

| Abstract views: 54 | views: 29

BONDING AND ATTACHMENT EXPERIENCE AMONG POSTNATAL MOTHERS WITH SPONTANEOUS CHILDBIRTH

PDF

14-20

Fauziah H Wada, Yayi Suryo Prabandari, Elsi Dwi Hapsari  
 DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.779>

|  Abstract views: 49 |  views: 29

#### THE EFFECT OF ORAL CARE INTERVENTION ON ORAL HEALTH STATUS OF INTUBATED PATIENTS IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Diah Tika Anggraeni, Ayu Trisna Hayati, Aan Nur'aeni  
 DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.971>

PDF  
21-26

|  Abstract views: 84 |  views: 39

#### LETTER TO EDITORS

#### THREE NOTICEABLE ISSUES ON NOVEL CORONAVIRUS: A QUICK LOOK FROM VIETNAM'S CIRCUMSTANCES

PDF  
27-28

Le Thi Thanh Tuyen  
 DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.1058>

|  Abstract views: 106 |  views: 79

#### CORRIGENDUM

#### EFFECTIVENESS OF DIABETIC FOOT EXERCISES USING SPONGES AND NEWSPAPERS ON FOOT SENSITIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH DIABETES MELLITUS - CORRIGENDUM

PDF  
29

Siti Fadilah, Adi Sucipto, Nazwar Hamdani Rahil  
 DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.1037>

|  Abstract views: 46 |  views: 20



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## FONT SIZE

# VOL 3, NO 3 (2017)

May - June 2017

## FULL ISSUE

View or download the full issue

PDF

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### A VISUAL MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR NURSES TO STANDARDIZE THE ADMINISTRATION OF VESICANT CHEMOTHERAPY

Mohamad Omar Alkaiyat, Ahmad Deeb, Mahmoud Salam  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.60>

PDF  
158-161

#### OSTEOPOROSIS HEALTH BELIEF, KNOWLEDGE LEVEL AND RISK FACTORS IN INDIVIDUALS WHOSE BONE MINERAL DENSITY WAS REQUIRED

Gulpinar Aslan, Dilek Kiliç  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.67>

PDF  
162-173

#### Abstract views: 644 | PDF views: 131

#### EFFECT OF MUSA BALBISIANA COLA EXTRACT ON BREAST MILK PRODUCTION IN BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS

Diyah Wahyuningsih, Syarief Taufik Hidayat, Nur Khafidhoh, Ari Suwondo, Diyah Fatmasari, Kun Aristiati Susiloretni  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.103>

PDF  
174-182

#### Abstract views: 732 | PDF views: 195

#### PRACTICES FOR PREVENTION NEEDLESTICK AND SHARPS INJURIES AMONG NURSING STUDENTS

Anh Tran Thi Quynh, Katrina Einhellig  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.63>

PDF  
183-190

#### Abstract views: 1011 | PDF views: 298

#### THE EFFECT OF MORINGA OLEIFERA LEAVES ON CHANGE IN BLOOD PROFILE IN POSTPARTUM MOTHERS

Arum Estiyani, Ari Suwondo, Sri Rahayu, Suharyo Hadisaputro, Melyana Nurul Widyawati, Kun Aristiati Susiloretni  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.104>

PDF  
191-197

#### Abstract views: 827 | PDF views: 241

#### EFFECT OF CARICA PAPAYA L LEAF ON MENSTRUAL PAIN AND PROSTAGLANDIN LEVEL IN ADOLESCENT WITH PRIMARY DYSMENORRHEA: A TRUE EXPERIMENT

Siska Nurul Abidah, Soeharyo Hadisaputro, Runjati Runjati, Syarief Thaufik Hidayat, Ari Suwondo, Donny Kristanto Mulyantoro  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.96>

PDF  
198-204

#### Abstract views: 868 | PDF views: 492

#### USING ADDIE MODEL TO DESIGN EARLY DETECTION SYSTEM OF CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF BENDOSARI, SEMARANG INDONESIA

Liliana Nur Khalifah, Supriyana Supriyana, Bahiyatun Bahiyatun, Melyana Nurul Widyawati  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.105>

PDF  
205-212

#### Abstract views: 963 | PDF views: 583

#### EFFECT OF COMBINATION OF OXYTOCIN MASSAGE AND HYPNOBREASTFEEDING ON UTERINE INVOLVEMENT AND PROLACTIN LEVELS IN POSTPARTUM MOTHERS

Yuni Nor Aini, Hadi Hadi, Sri Rahayu, Noor Pramono, Donny Kristanto Mulyantoro  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.102>

PDF  
213-220

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[Editorial Team](#)

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[Publication Ethics & Malpractice Statement](#)

[Article Correction, Retraction, & Withdrawal Policy](#)

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### Journal Citation

[Scopus](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

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[Reviewer Recognition](#)

[Reviewer Guidelines](#)

[Peer Review Process](#)

[Best Reviewers 2019](#)

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### Articles

[Early View](#)

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Abstract views: 1262 | views: 558

### COMPARISON OF EFFECTS OF ABDOMINAL STRETCHING EXERCISE AND COLD COMPRESS THERAPY ON MENSTRUAL PAIN INTENSITY IN TEENAGE GIRLS

Desta Ayu Cahya Rosyida, Agus Suwadono, Ida Ariyanti, Suhartono Suhartono, Imam Djamaruddin Mashoedi, Diyah Fatmawati  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.98>

PDF  
221-228

Abstract views: 952 | views: 375

### ROSELLE FLOWER (HIBISCUS SABDARIFFA) IN THE TREATMENT OF HYPERTENSION IN POSTPARTUM MOTHERS

Nikmah Jalilah Ritonga, Onny Setiani, Umaroh Umaroh, Kamilah Budhi R, Faisal Amri  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.95>

PDF  
229-237

Abstract views: 859 | views: 427

### BREAST MILK AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR POSTPARTUM PERINEAL CARE

Yuli Admasari, Bedjo Santoso, Titi Suherni, Imam Djamaruddin Mashoedi, Mardiyono Mardiyono  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.101>

PDF  
238-245

Abstract views: 866 | views: 318

### EFFECT OF PRENATAL YOGA ON ANXIETY, BLOOD PRESSURE, AND FETAL HEART RATE IN PRIMIGRAVIDA MOTHERS

Hamdiah Hamdiah, Ari Suwondo, Triana Sri Hardjanti, Ariawan Soejoenoe, M Choiroel Anwar  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.99>

PDF  
246-254

Abstract views: 4251 | views: 554

### EFFECT OF CONSUMING RED DRAGON FRUIT (HYLOCEREUS COSTARICENSIS) JUICE ON THE LEVELS OF HEMOGLOBIN AND ERYTHROCYTE AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN

Ari Widyaningsih, Onny Setiyani, Umaroh Umaroh, Muchlis Achsan Udji Sofro, Faisal Amri  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.97>

PDF  
255-264

Abstract views: 2075 | views: 820

### BIRD'S NEST EXTRACT CREAM: TREATMENT FOR PERINEAL WOUND IN RATTUS NORVEGICUS

Herlina Owiwijayanti, Syarief Thaufik Hidayat, Nur Khafidhoh  
DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.33546/bnj.100>

PDF  
265-271

Abstract views: 435 | views: 167

### FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH POOR GLYCEMIC CONTROL AMONG TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS IN INDONESIA

Rian Adi Pamungkas, St. Hadijah, Andi Mayasari, Nusdin Nusdin  
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PDF  
272-280

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Destia Ayu Cahya Rosyida, Agus Suwandono, Ida Ariyanti, Suhartono Suhartono, Imam Djamaruddin Mashoedi, Diyah Fatmasari

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33546/bnj.98>

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Pain during menstruation is not uncommon, especially in young women, which has an impact on their life activities.

**Objective:** To examine the effect of abdominal stretching exercise and cold compress therapy on decreasing intensity of menstrual pain in teenage girls.

**Design:** A quasi-experimental study with two group comparison pretest-posttest design at SMK Bakti Indonesia Medika, Indonesia. There were 46 respondents selected in this study by consecutive sampling that consisted of 23 samples in the abdominal stretching exercise group and 23 samples in the cold compress group. The menstrual pain was measured using VAS (visual analog scale). Data were analyzed using Mann-Whitney, Chi-Square, and Wilcoxon test.

**Results:** Findings showed that the mean of menstrual pain before intervention in the abdominal stretching exercise was 7.04 and in the cold compress therapy was 6.74 with p-value 0.211 (<0.05), which indicated that there was no mean difference of pain between both groups. However, after intervention, the menstrual pain was reduced from 7.04 to 1.91 (5.09 difference) in the abdominal stretching exercise group; and from 6.74 to 5.52 (1.22 difference) in the cold compress group with p-value 0.000 (<0.05), which indicated that there was statistically significant difference of menstrual pain before and after intervention, both abdominal stretching exercise and cold compress therapy.

**Conclusion:** There were statistically significant effects of abdominal stretching exercise and cold compress therapy on menstrual pain in teenage girls. The abdominal stretching exercise is more effective than cold compress therapy in reducing menstrual pain intensity. Thus, it is suggested that abdominal stretching exercise can be an alternative choice of management of dysmenorrhea in teenage girls, and can be a part of subject in the education as non-pharmacological medicine.

### KEYWORDS

abdominal stretching exercise; cold compress; menstrual pain

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