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Transsexual process, medical technologies and nursing care in South of Brazil

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The aim of this paper is to identify the understanding of nurses, working in a teaching hospital in South of Brazil, caring on people who personify the opposite gender. Gender means individual's behavior according their cultural interpretation about feminine and masculine while sex means biological male and female. Persons which embodied other gender role destabilize heteronormative's social comprehensions. Medical technology, as a concept, involves communication with the patient to the most modern techniques. Brazil's Pubic Health Polices established, in 2008, the Transsexual Process. Ordinance 2803, in 2013, expands Transsexual Process in the Health Unic System. This is a qualitative research, supported in cultural and gender studies and is part of a research entitled "Biotechnologies and care practices in an academic health service", CAAE: 46717815.8.0000.5343, approved by Ethics Committee of Santa Cruz do Sul University. Data results in 2 analytical units. First one shows nurses comprehension about the subject. The second demonstrates their understanding about transsexual process and the knowledge obtained in their nursing schools. Discussion evidence interviewees are impregnated by moral conceptions that associate embodiment with socially inappropriate behavior and with perversion. Those kind of conceptions have strong impact on nursing care in a daily bases. It is concluded that continuing education should be offered to nurses so they can have the opportunity to think his views on transgender people as well as on the treatments available under transsexual process in the Brazilian's Health Unic System.

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Occupational exposure to pesticides, nicotine and minor psychiatric disorders among tobacco farmers

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Introduction: Exposure to pesticides has been associated with psychiatric problems among farm workers, although there is still controversy as to chemical types, intensity and forms of exposure that represent risk factors for neuropsychological problems. Furthermore, tobacco workers are exposed to dermal absorption of nicotine, although its effect on mental health has not yet been studied.

Objectives: To identify the prevalence of minor psychiatric disorders (MPD) among tobacco farmers and associated factors, paying special attention to pesticide and nicotine exposure.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study with a representative sample of tobacco growers, characterizing economic indicators of the farms, socio-demographic factors, lifestyle habits and occupational exposures. Multivariate analysis was performed using a hierarchical Poisson regression model.

Results: A total of 2,400 tobacco farmers were assessed and MPD prevalence was 12%. MPD was higher among women (PR 1.4), workers aged 40 or over, tenants/employees (PR 1.8) and those who reported having difficulty in paying debts (PR 2.0). Low socioeconomic status was inversely associated with MPD prevalence. Tasks involving dermal exposure to pesticides showed risk varying between 35% and 71%, whereas tobacco growers on farms using organophosphates had 50% more risk of MPD than those not exposed to this kind of pesticide. The number of pesticide poisoning and green tobacco sickness episodes showed linear association with MPD.

Conclusions: The study reinforces the evidence of the association between pesticide poisoning and mental health disorders. It also points to increased risk of MPD from low socioeconomic status, dermal pesticide exposure as well as from exposure to organophosphates. Furthermore, the study reveals intense nicotine exposure as a risk for tobacco farmers' mental health.

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