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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Barriers to the implementation of research perceived by nurses from Osakidetza<sup>☆</sup>

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Received 14 October 2016; accepted 28 March 2017

### KEYWORDS

Nursing;  
Nursing research;  
Research utilisation;  
Primary health care;  
Hospital care

### Abstract

**Objective:** To understand the barriers to implementing nursing research findings into practice, as perceived by the nurses working in Osakidetza and to analyse if the workplace factor and time worked affect the perception of these barriers.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional study. BARRIERS Scale questionnaire was given to a representative sample of 1572 Basque Health Service nurses, stratified and randomised, according to scope of work and job responsibility (response rate: 43.76%).

**Results:** According to the research results, the first important barrier was "insufficient time on the job to implement new ideas". Nurses have perceived the organisational factor as the most important barrier in their practice. Nurses in "Special hospital departments" perceived more barriers in the "quality of research" factor than those working in "Primary Care". Years of service showed a slight influence.

**Conclusions:** The nurses stated that external factors related to the organisation principally interfered in implementing results into clinical practice. They placed lack of critical reading training second. Working environment and seniority mark differences in the perception of barriers. This study may help to develop strategies for planning training programmes to facilitate the use of research in clinical practice, in order to provide quality care.

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<sup>☆</sup> Please cite this article as: Cidoncha-Moreno MÁ, Ruíz de Alegría-Fernandez de Retana B. Percepción de barreras para la utilización de la investigación en enfermeras de Osakidetza. Enferm Clin. 2017. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.enfcli.2017.03.015>

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**PALABRAS CLAVE**

Enfermería;  
Investigación en  
enfermería;  
Utilización de la  
investigación;  
Atención Primaria de  
salud;  
Atención hospitalaria

**Percepción de barreras para la utilización de la investigación en enfermeras de Osakidetza****Resumen**

**Objetivo:** Conocer la percepción de barreras para incorporar los resultados de investigación a la práctica en las enfermeras/os de Osakidetza y analizar si los factores ámbito laboral y tiempo trabajado afectan a la percepción de dichas barreras.

**Métodos:** Estudio descriptivo, transversal, multicéntrico. El cuestionario BARRIERS fue administrado a 1.572 enfermeras de Osakidetza estratificadas y aleatorizadas según ámbito de trabajo y responsabilidad laboral (tasa de respuesta: 43,76%).

**Resultados:** La primera barrera identificada fue «el tiempo insuficiente en el trabajo para implementar nuevas ideas». La dimensión organizacional fue la mayor barrera percibida. Las enfermeras/os del «Hospital de Servicios Especiales» percibieron más barreras en el factor «calidad de la investigación» que los que trabajaban en «Atención Primaria». El tiempo de antigüedad mostró una débil influencia.

**Conclusiones:** Las/os enfermeras/os de Osakidetza declararon que los factores externos relacionados con la organización son los que principalmente interfirieron en la incorporación de los resultados a la práctica clínica. En segundo lugar situaron la falta de formación para hacer una lectura crítica. El ámbito laboral y la antigüedad marcan diferencias en la percepción de barreras. Este estudio puede ayudar a establecer estrategias para la planificación de programas formativos más adecuados que ayuden a facilitar la utilización de la investigación en la práctica clínica, con el fin de prestar una atención de calidad.

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**What is known?**

Factors such as training, participating in research activities, structure of the organisation and experience on the job have been cited as influencing the transfer of knowledge into practice.

**What does this paper contribute?**

This study confirms that nurses attribute the main barrier to the implementation of research on lack of time and the second on lack of training. The work setting changes the perception of barriers in putting results into practice and length of time worked is mildly influential.

**Introduction**

Health professionals are called upon to use the results of scientific research in the healthcare they offer. In this sense, the application of results to practice is a necessary component for the improvement of peoples' healthcare quality.<sup>1</sup>

However, the literature highlights the persistent division between research finding and their clinical application,<sup>2-9</sup> in addition to the inappropriate dissemination of relevant results and poor practical application.<sup>10</sup> More specifically, it

has been proven that 30% of patients do not receive health-care based on scientific evidence, 25% of them even receive unnecessary care and on occasions care that may damage their health.<sup>11,12</sup>

There has been an attempt to probe into a resolution to this problem<sup>13-15</sup> since in the process of incorporating research into clinical practice many interrelated complex factors may be involved.<sup>5,16-22</sup>

To identify the difficulties related to the use of research, Funk et al.<sup>21</sup> developed the tool: BARRIERS to Research Utilisation Scale which was widely used, particularly throughout North American and the United Kingdom.<sup>23</sup> The barriers identified in the international area<sup>17-24</sup> and the Spanish context<sup>25-27</sup> were lack of time to read up on research and implement new ideas during work, gaps in knowledge and lack of authority and support from nursing managers and from colleagues. This makes it clear that the decision to incorporate knowledge into practice is governed by the interrelationship of individual, organisational and environmental characteristics.<sup>28,29</sup>

Other studies examined the effect of socio-occupational events on difficulties for using research in clinical practice and found that training<sup>7</sup> and participation in research activities<sup>24,25</sup> promote the use of research in practice. The structure of the organisations worked in<sup>27,29</sup> and the organisational culture<sup>29</sup> are also factors which have an effect on the transfer of knowledge into practice.

Few studies have been found nationally<sup>25-27</sup> and none in the context of the Basque health system. As a result we decided to conduct a study to probe into this issue.

The aim of this study was to understand the barriers to implementing nursing research findings into practice as

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