



PRACTICAL APPLICATION



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**5.3 – Coping with fear and tension in a patient and his /her family.
Solve a problem**

CASE STUDY - DESCRIPTION

“The Antibiotic Therapy”

Little Annabelle is a two years old girl suffering from rheumatic disease with a serious heart problem and awaiting surgery to correct her mitral insufficiency.

Before being admitted to hospital, he has to undergo a long period of antibiotic therapy and the pediatrician, for safety reasons, has suggested administering the therapy within the ward of a city hospital. Annabelle's mother is absolutely against this proposal because in the past she has had a negative experience with the health staff of that hospital and therefore, against the doctor's advice, she decided to have the drug administered in an outpatient clinic.

The pediatric nurses of the territory are therefore in a critical situation: they have never taken on such a complex patient before and, above all, they can not involve the pediatrician of the little Annabelle for a clinical support to the benefit they must provide.

They must also take care of the fears and anxieties of the mother of the little patient in an environment in which they will have to structure, from the beginning, the modalities of action and have all the necessary equipment in case of emergency intervention.



The direction of their service is only concerned with resolving the problem and giving an answer to the mother in any case, but not to study an effective strategy for supporting the pediatric nurses who, in a small number, could find themselves completely alone in this situation.

So they decide to ask help from the nursing colleagues of the adult outpatient clinic by activating a reciprocal exchange of skills, adopting the procedures already used by them for the administration of antibiotics and planning a joint intervention to support the mother in this path.

They will hold a meeting with the mother to illustrate their intervention schedule on little Annabelle, to involve her and to understand together which critical issues they will have to face.

