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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الالكتروني والميكرو فيلم

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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON PATIENT PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT FOR NURSE INTERNS, ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY

Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Nursing, Alexandria University
in Partial Fulfillment of the
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in
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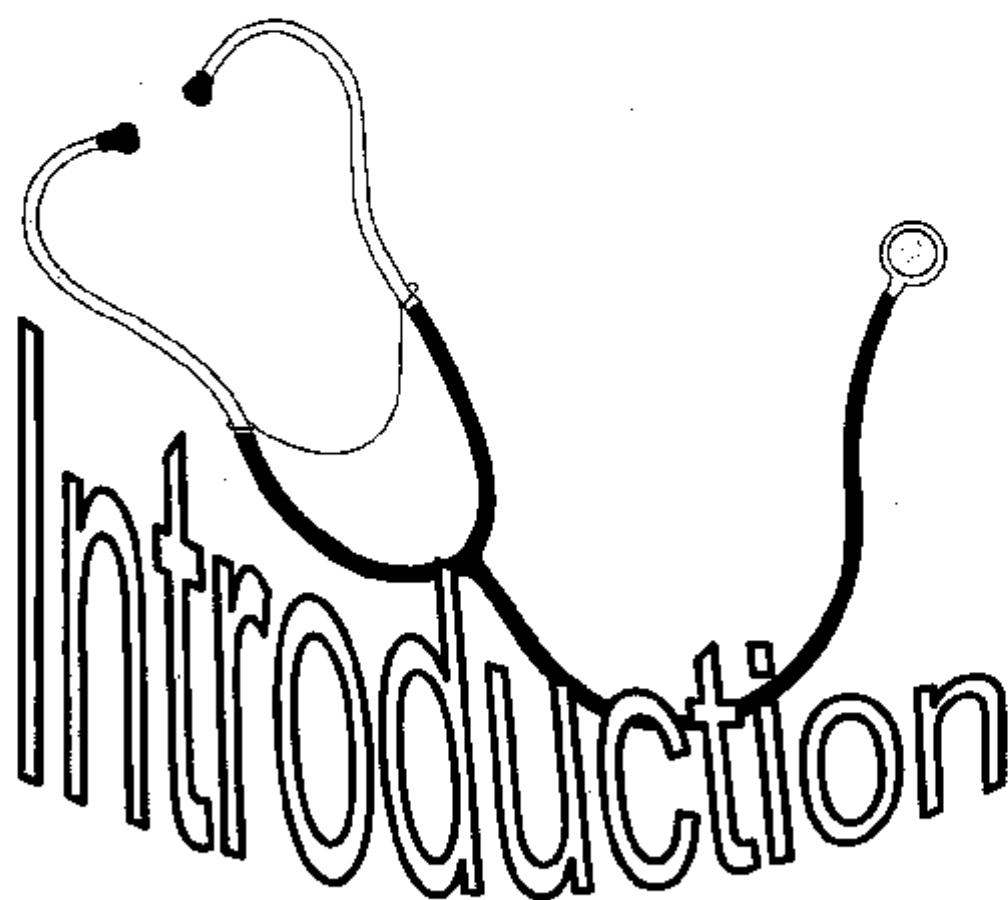
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CHAPTER I



INTRODUCTION

Assessment is an integral component of holistic care and of the nursing process.^[1] Physical assessment is a systematic method of data collection, which consists of the appraisal of the individual, the family or the community for the purposes of identifying potential and actual health needs.^[2,3] Systematic physical assessment is used to initiate and maintain individualized plans of care to promote wellness, restore health, promote early detection and intervention and facilitate coping, thereby facilitating an optimal level of wellness.^[4,5]

The rapid increase in scientific knowledge and technology have brought radical changes in society and, consequently in the delivery of healthcare services and on nursing practice.^[6] Nursing has become an independent, creative force in health care. The expanded scope and increased complexity of nursing practice have placed new responsibilities on the professional nurse. She has to widen her knowledge, keep abreast with new scientific advances and acquire new technical skills in order to upgrade the efficiency of her performance.^[7]

With her role broadening at rapid pace, the nurse must begin to develop new skills and to incorporate these into her frame of reference.^[8] In addition, *Hagopian* and *Kilpack*,^[9] ascertained that whatever caring role the nurse will assume, she needs an understanding of the arts and science pertinent to the clinical practice of nursing. The trend today is more and more toward the inclusion of physical assessment skills as part of the nurse's armamentarium. *Bates* and *Lynaugh*,^[10] emphasized that the physical assessment is the most valuable device for organized data collection. It is the corner stone of