

The psychological impact of hemodialysis on chronic renal failure patients.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Dialysis patients experience psychosocial problems, such as anxiety, depression, social isolation, loneliness, helplessness, and hopelessness. All of these psychosocial problems can increase patients need for holistic care, including attention to the person's environment and receiving support from family. If dialysis patients are better supported and cared for, these negative consequences might be prevented or at least decreased. This study was performed to determine the psychological impact of hemodialysis on chronic renal failure patients.

METHODS: In this study, descriptive design was used. Data were collected during structured interviews in an outpatient clinic using a questionnaire. The questionnaire aimed to determine the patients descriptive characters and the scores of Beck Depression Inventory and Perceived Social Support from Family Scales. In data evaluation, descriptive statistics.

RESULTS The mean depression score was very high (23.2 + 10.5). Significant differences were found between employment status and level of depressive symptoms. The mean level of perceived social support from family was 15.23 + 5.37. There were no statistically significant differences between all the variables for the level of perceived social support from family. Perceived social support from family was negatively correlated with depression.

CONCLUSIONS: The results of this study indicate that hemodialysis patients experience depression. However, patients who were dissatisfied with their social relationships had higher depression scores.

KEYWORDS: Depression, Social Support, Family, Kidney Failure, Chronic, Renal Dialysis, Patients.