Exploration, With The Ottawa Decision Support Framework, The Needs Of Patients With Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease In Choosing A Dialysis Modality

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Problem. Predialysis nurses have a central role for helping patients with advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD stage 4 and 5) in choosing a dialysis modality (DM) when they have decided to undergo dialysis to stay in life. Nurses are not trained for decision support and decision-making in difficult for patients. Our goal is to develop and evaluate a decision support intervention which includes a decision aid for patients and training in decision support (coaching interventions) for nurses. Guided by the Ottawa Decision Support Framework (ODSF), their development begins with a decisional needs assessment.

Objective. Describe the decision-making needs regarding choice of DM from the perspective of patients with advanced CKD and their families and health care professionals

Design and method. A qualitative study using individual interviews and a focus group was conducted with 32 key informants (patients, families and health care professionals). The interview guides and the content analysis were based on the ODSF.

Results. The results highlight a complex trajectory for choosing a DM arising from the chronic character of the disease, its unpredictable course, and the demanding and arduous treatment. This trajectory is declined in five transitional stages, each of which includes specific decision-making needs and barriers to decision making. Learning to live with chronic illness and overcoming the emotional responses to disease and treatment greatly influence the course of the trajectory.

Conclusion. The participants in this study described a complex multifaceted trajectory leading to the choice of a DM. As we anticipate the transitional stages of the trajectory, we will be able to develop a decision support interventions that are stage-matched.

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