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Lived Experiences of End Stage Renal Disease Patients Awaiting Transplantation: A Phenomenological Inquiry

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End Stage Renal disease or ESRD, a chronic illness is becoming a significant concern globally. Given the unique experiences of ESRD patients with the reality that matched donor kidneys are not easy to come by, the aim of this Phenomenological Inquiry was to gain a better understanding of the human character of the subject matter as it uses primary experiences as facts on which to base its findings. Five (5) ESRD patients awaiting transplant gave their consent and were interviewed three times using semi-structured interview guides. The analysis of data was iterative and verified through member checks. From the findings of the study three (3) Eidetic Insights emerged from the themes and these are: Life offers hope and inspiration while experiencing the high and low moments; Finding support through family, prayers and spirituality and the insight on the Psychospiritual Journey. The transpersonal technique of clay Hand building skills were used to create artistic pieces to symbolize and represent their own experiences. The findings of the study has the potential to further broaden the knowledge base from which it will initiate and influence how ESRD patients are cared for while awaiting transplantation. The core of a nephrology patient's journey binds itself to the role of the Nurse providing care as Nurses are agents of integrative healing, not only on the physical aspect but on the mind, body, and spirit.

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