

The Study on Stress and Social support of the Mother with Hemophilic child

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Objectives

The Survey aimed to provide a useful and practical implication on social welfare intervention for mothers of hemophiliacs. The main objectives of the research were to review disease-related characteristics of patients and general characteristics of patients' mothers and explore which stress factors have the significant effect on mothers of hemophiliacs the most.

Methods

Self-reporting surveys of 96 mothers of hemophiliacs who received treatments from the Korea Hemophilia Foundation clinic were conducted from November 15~24, 2012. The approaches of frequency analysis, descriptive statistical analysis, correlation analysis and hierarchical multiple regression analysis were used to analyze the collected data.

Results

Patients' mothers showed a high average stress score of 66 on a 100 scale with highest stress in the present disease condition and prognosis. Social support level scored an average of 68.6 on a 100 scale with highest scores in appraisal support and self-esteem support.

Stress of the mother with hemophilic child

category	Scaled score (Maximum of 100 points)
Disease States and convalescence	77.5
medical treatment	74.5
family relationships and individual role	56.5
personal relations	55.5
whole stress	66.0

While mothers' stress and social support level didn't show a statistically significant correlation, under the subcategories of stress and social support, stress in inter-personal relations and appraisal support revealed a significant correlation.

In order to identify influential factors on social support level of hemophiliacs' mothers, general characteristics of mothers, data of characteristics of hemophiliacs and stresses of mothers were entered in this order for a hierarchical multiple regression analysis. The meaningful results came out in all the stages (from the first stage to the third stage).

The mother of child with hemophilic



When it comes to the impact of each parameter, more positive influences on mothers' social support level were shown when there are fewer changes in the relationship with the spouse after their children's diagnosis as hemophilia at stage 1, when the hemorrhage frequency is lower in addition to fewer changes in relations with the spouse after hemophilic diagnosis at stage 2, and when there is lower stress in inter-personal relations with others in addition to fewer changes in relations with the spouse after hemophilic diagnosis at stage 3.

Conclusions

First of all, continuous education on the disease management and social support are critical in minimizing mothers' stress level generated from their children's disease.

Second, measures to enhance the social support of mothers need to be identified and provided through appraisal support (praise, acknowledgement, and etc.) and self-esteem support (caring, understanding, sympathy, trust, attention, and etc.): e.g. psychological consulting and self-help group, and etc.

Third, mothers of hemophiliacs showed a relatively high social support level in general though their stress level was above the average. Given Korean women tend to believe in addressing difficulties by themselves and regard hiding one's troubles a virtue, it can be interpreted that they take all the stress of taking care of their hemophilic children alone. Moreover, another reason why the respondents showed a high tendency of social support level may be resulted from the convenience sampling method of the survey targeting only mothers who come to the Korea Hemophilia Foundation Hospital (specialized in hemophilia treatment).

Last but not least, considering factors like the changes in relations with the spouse, the hemorrhage frequency of patients, and stress in inter-personal relations after their children being diagnosed as hemophilia influence social support level of patients' mothers, therefore social workers should create an atmosphere where family members can take part in discussing the matter and sharing responsibility of hemophilic child-rearing through continuous engagement.

