ID: 291

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Title: Help seeking behaviors of the hemophiliac patients and their families in Isfahan: A qualitative study

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Abstract: Introduction

Most of the studies about hemophilia have accented to medical and therapeutic aspects. Regardless of their importance, these studies can not explore construction of patients’ perceptions and their families about prevention methods and help-seeking behaviors of them.

Aim

We have run a qualitative research to explore and develop construction of hemophiliac community’s culture and their related help-seeking behaviors. We argue in this article about findings of this qualitative research.

Methods

We applied an ethnographic approach in this study. Participants were 61 hemophilic patients and their first degree sibs in Isfahan (center of Iran). We organized them in 7 Focus Groups Discussions. After quotes’ transcription, data analysis was applied via thematic and discourse analysis.

Results

This ethnographic research explored that help-seeking behaviors in participants are formed with concepts such as: self-efficacy, isolation and privacy due stigmatization, religious ideas and beliefs, genders, family contexts as family support, poverty, cultural characteristics and previous experiences on hemophilia disease. This study revealed also some of the most important barriers to contribution of participants in health-related interventions, such as lack of negative perception toward hemophilia due to especial experiences of them, unwariness toward prevention methods and poverty.

Conclusion

We advise comprehensive counseling and obviation of economic barriers to promotion of attitudes and help-seeking behaviors of hemophiliac community. Also insurance supports extension can help to promote familial contribution in preventing programs. Meanwhile social education toward hemophilia and its preventing methods will help to cultural correction and relief of hemophilia community from social restrictions.

Qualitative study, hemophilia, help-seeking behavior

Presentation: Oral