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Compliance of diabetic patients with the treatment regimen of diabetes at UNRWA health centers in Gaza- Strip, Palestine -1999

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Abstract

This study is about the compliance of diabetic patients with the treatment of diabetes at UNRWA health centres in Gaza -Strip, Palestine-1999. The objectives of the study aim to assess the compliance rate of diabetic patients with the treatment of diabetes, to identify the misconceptions of diabetic patients regarding the various disease aspects and its treatment and to provide recommendations for improving compliance of diabetic patients.

This is a cross-sectional study, with data collection using interview questionnaire, at UNRWA health centres, during duty hours. The study included the registered diabetic patients at three UNRWA health centres. The sample was 317 cases. The mean age of the study population was 55.26 ± 11.57 years. Females were twice more than males.

Using the self- reporting method, the compliance rate was very high (94.90%). Using the refill method the rate was also high (88.40%). Using the therapeutic outcome method the compliance rate was low (38.50%). The highest rate was among those aged < 20 and \geq 60 years than those of middle age (66.70%, 50%) and 30.10% respectively). The compliance was better among non-educated than educated patients. It was higher among non-smokers and among patients doing physical exercises.

More than half of the patients (54.90%) thought that diabetes could not have a permanent cure. About one-third of the patients (35.20%) do not take a

missed dose and 13% of the patients stop taking the drug once they improved from diabetes.

The findings indicate that, there was a clear need for health education of diabetic patients. Also, more information about the disease and importance of compliance should be provided to diabetic patients at the time of diagnosis and initiation of therapy.

ملخص

هذه در اسة حول مدى التزام مرضى السكري المترددين على عيادات وكالة الغوث بغزة بخطـــة العلاج الموصوفة لهم .

ەقدەة:

يعتبر مرض السكري واحداً من أهم الأمراض في مجتمع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين بقطاع غزة، ومن الملاحظ أن أكثر الفئات العمرية إصابة بهذا المرض هي الواقعة بعد سن الأربعين سنة، ومن الجدير ذكره أن اكتشاف المرض في بدايته يسهل علاجه وذلك بإتباع نظام غذائي خاص أو بإضافة بعض أدوية علاج مرض السكري وخاصة ما يؤخذ منها عن طريق الفم. وفي حالة عدم العلاج أو عدم إتباع نظام العلاج فان المرض قد يلازمه آثار سلبية على الصحة والجدير بالذكر بأن هناك عدة عوامل خطر تؤدي إلى الإصابة بهذا المرض.

منهجية البحث:

هذه الدراسة هي دراسة وصفية تحليلية لمدى التزام مرضى السكري بخطة العلاج الموصوفة لهم في عيادات وكالة الغوث في قطاع غزة وعددها ١٣ عيادة صحية و ٣ مراكز صحية فرعية تقدم خدمات الرعاية الصحية الأولية للاجئين بالإضافة إلى خدمات الأمومة والطفولة وخدمات تخصصية في مجال طب العيون والأمراض الصدرية وأمراض الأطفال والخدمات السنية وخدمات تنظيم الأسرة ورعاية الولادات وكذلك بعض الأمراض المزمنة شاملة القلب والضغط والسكرى.

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على حجم المشكلة ومدى التزام المرضى بخطط علاجهم وما هي معلوماتهم عن المرض من جوانبه المختلفة وكذلك عن الأدوية المستعملة في العلاج ، من هنا فإنه يمكن تحديد المشكلة والتعرف على أسبابها وهذا سوف يخدم المسئولين وأصحاب القرار في وضع الخطط والحلول المناسبة للحد من انتشار هذا المرض وكيفية علاجه وزيادة التزام المرضي بإتباع نظام العلاج بالكامل.

وقد استخدم الاستبيان مع المقابلة كأداة لجمع المعلومات من المرضى (مرضى السكري) حيث تم جمع بعض المعلومات من ملفات المرضى لدى المراكز الصحية التى يتعالجون فيها بينما تم جمع باقي المعلومات من المرضى أنفسهم مما يزيد من تأكيد دقة المعلومات من قبل هذه الفئية من المرضى.

الدراسة شملت جميع مرضى السكري المسجلين لدى مراكز وكالة الغوث الصحية بقطاع غيزة والذين بلغ عددهم ١٩٠٧ حالة حتى نهاية شهر إبريل ١٩٩٩ موزعين على ١٣ مركزا صحيا داخل وخارج مخيمات اللاجئين الثمانية. وتسهيلا على الباحث فقد تم اختيار ثلاثة مراكز صحية لإجراء هذه الدراسة فيها وهي عيادة جباليا في معسكر جباليا للاجئين وعيادة غزة الدرج في مدينة غزة وعيادة ببت حانون في قرية ببت حانون . هذا وقد تم جمع المعلومات من المرضي خلال ساعات الدوام الرسمية وأثناء زياراتهم الروتينية للمراكز الصحية التابعة لهم . وقد كانت نسبة الاستجابة ١٠٠٠% وقد تم استخدام البرنامج الإحصائي SPSS في تحليل المعلومات بينما تم استخدام برنامج 6 Epi-info في تحديد حجم العينة. أما اختيار العينة فكان بطريقة الاختيار العشوائي (رقم ٣٦) ثم بتباعد عددي مقداره ١١ ، المنتظم ونقطة البداية كانت بطريقة الاختيار العشوائي (رقم ٣٦) ثم بتباعد عددي المسجلة لديهم.

الأهداف المرحلية:

- ١. تقييم معدل التزام مرضى السكري بخطة علاجهم.
- ٢. التعرف على بعض المفاهيم لدى مرضى السكري عن مرضهم وعلاجهم
- ٣. تحديد العلاقة بين معرفة المرضى عن مرضهم ومدى التزامهم بالعلاج.
 - التعرف على بعض معوقات التزامهم بخطط العلاج.
 - و. إستنباط التوصيات اللازمة لتحسين التزام المرضى بخطة العلاج.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Title:

Compliance of diabetic patients with the treatment regimen of diabetes at UNRWA health centres in Gaza-Strip, Palestine-1999.

1.2 Aim of the study:

To assess the compliance of registered diabetic patients with the treatment plan of diabetes at UNRWA health centres in Gaza-Strip.

1.3 Objectives:

- a. To assess the rate of adherence with the treatment plan among diabetic patients.
- To identify the misconceptions of diabetic patients about the disease aspects and the treatment.
- c. To identify the relationship between the knowledge of diabetic patients about diabetes and their compliance.
- d. To identify possible barriers with compliance.
- To propose ideas to improve compliance of diabetic patients (methods for intervention).

1.4 Research questions:

- a. Is the compliance rate with the treatment plan among diabetic patients in UNRWA health centres similar to that in the literature?
- b. What are the variables associated with the compliance of diabetic patients?
- c. What are the misconceptions of diabetic patients about the treatment plan and disease aspects?

1.5 Demography of Gaza-Strip:

Gaza-Strip is small piece of land, 50 kilometer long and 7-12 kilometer wide, with a surface area 362 square kilometers, which represents the southern Governorate of Palestine, 18% of the total area is Israeli settlements (UNRWA 1998).

The total population is around one million (1,000,000) persons, with a population density of about 3000 persons per square kilometer (PNA 1997). The crude birth rate was 42 per 1000, crude death rate 3.5 per 1000 and infant mortality rate 36 per 1000 in 1997 (UNRWA 1998, PNA 1997).

About 50% of the total population are less than 15 years of age, 26.2% are 16-29 years, 14.4% are 30-49 years of age, and 8.8% are > 50 years. The average family size is 6.9, the population growth rate in Gaza-Strip is about 4% (PNA 1997).

C

Recommendations

- 1. Directing efforts on a wide scale towards public education with respect to various disease aspects and importance of compliance with the treatment plan.
- 2. Patients should be educated to develop a sense of self-reliance and to acquire adequate knowledge and skills in the field of modifying, developing and promoting healthy individuals, life-style behaviours especially for high-risk individuals in the target of:
 - * Adherence to healthy dietary patterns to avoid obesity.
 - * Weight reduction especially for those with BMI \geq 30.
 - * Regular physical activities.
- 3. Patients should be advised and counseled about the importance of:
 - * Taking the drugs regularly.
 - * Taking a missed dose in due time.
 - * Consulting the physician upon improvement.
 - * Regular follow-up at the health centre.

- Avoiding the use of traditional prescriptions.
- * Not to use hypoglycemic drugs prescribed for others.
- 4. Hypoglycemic medications should be made available at the health centres in adequate quantities.