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Opinions about Death of Dialysis Patients

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Dialysis patients who had high mortality rate because of life threatening chronic renal failure, have experienced the fear of pain and suffering, loneliness and fear of death in the hemodialysis unit. This research aimed at determining the perception of death in dialysis patients.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional, descriptive research. The research was conducted under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, in public hospitals in the cities of Mersin, Izmir, Antalya, Erzurum, Samsun and Gaziantep. A total 240 patients who were a treated in the dialysis units of these hospitals. Participants were selected with stratified random sampling. For data collection, a patient information form was prepared by the researcher. Data from the study were analyzed with Tukey HSD and one way ANOVA using an SPSS version 11.5 software package (Statistical Package for The Social Sciences Windows). The statistical significance level was defined as $p < 0.05$.

Results: Dialysis patients were found to be in a mildly depressive emotional state and they had death anxiety. Death related anxiety and depression were more common among the female study participants compared to the male participants. Single patients exhibited higher levels of death anxiety compared to married patients.

Conclusions: Group therapy sessions should be held for dialysis patients to allow them to express their feelings and to overcome the death anxiety. In addition, empirical and qualitative studies are required in this area.

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