

Level of knowledge about the disease versus health and social status in diabetic patients

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The education of diabetes patients plays a crucial role in the process of health improvement and life protection in this group of patients. In this work, factors differentiating the level of knowledge in diabetic patients at the level of primary health care were presented. Research has been carried out within the scope of NCSR grant no. 6P05D02320, among 1366 families and 1986 patients with diabetes, originating from the randomly chosen 61 units of the national primary health care. The research has been carried out based on: anonymous questionnaires among patients' families/caregivers, analysis of medical records.

Results: Any patient demonstrated the knowledge of all analyzed questions. Every second demonstrated a minimal level of knowledge about the disease (58.6%), while more than every third (37.4%) did not have any knowledge about the disease. In patients with higher level of knowledge about the disease, the following conditions were identified more often: body weight closer to normal levels, full fitness and independence, lack of complaints regarding somatic and psychosomatic health ($p=0,00000$), personal and oral hygiene care, participation in self-control and self-monitoring, regular taking of medicines, less problems in following requirements of diabetes treatment ($p=0,00000$), need for less, moderate professional care ($p=0,00000$), functioning in a family characterized by better socioeconomic status ($p=0,00000$), lack of difficulties in accessing medical services ($p=0,00000$), functioning in a family characterized by higher level of knowledge about the disease ($p=0,00000$).

Conclusions: The level of knowledge about the disease crucially differentiates the behavior, health status and need for professional care in diabetic patients.

Biography

Anna Abramczyk (Ph.D.), Professor of University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn is author of more than 170 papers (published) about the international and national range. She is expert of the Polish Committee Accreditation in the range education on the medical direction. She is director and author of the grant no 6P05D02320, "The quality of care above patients with diabetes on the level of the primary health care", financed by Committee of Scientific Research in Poland. She is an expert in the range of public health, social medicine, and diabetes care.