

15th Euro Nursing & Medicare Summit

October 17-19, 2016 Rome, Italy

The impact of psychological response level and social support on the marital adjustment of women who have undergone infertility treatment

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The research was conducted as a definitive survey in order to identify the impact of psychological response level and social support on the marital adjustment of women who applied to the IVF unit of a university hospital in Ankara province. The population of the survey consisted of 150 volunteer women applied to the IVF unit for infertility treatment from July 2015 to January 2016 who were at least elementary school graduates, did not have any chronic disease, did not have any psychiatric problem, and who were open to verbal communication. The approval of the Ethical Board and the required permits were obtained for the survey. Data was collected using an introductory information form, marital adjustment scale (MAS), infertility distress scale (IDS) and multidimensional scale of perceived social support (MSPSS). The obtained data was analyzed using percentage, average and standard deviation, Student's t test, Kruskal-Wallis, One way ANOVA and Mann-Whitney U test statistic and Spearman correlation analysis. The mean age of women participated in the survey was 31.04 ± 4.84 . The infertility type of 86% of the participants was primary and the infertility type of 14% of the participants was secondary. The infertility period of 12.7% of women was less than 1 year, and the same was 1 - 5 years for 62.7% and 6 years and over for 24.7%. The infertility treatment period of 21.3% was less than 1 year the same period was 1-5 years for 62.0% and 6 years and over for 16.7%. The average points obtained from the MAS of the participants was 41.49 ± 7.74 and the average points obtained from IDS was 41.09 ± 9.61 . The average point obtained from the MSPSS was 57.02 ± 15.59 . The average point obtained from the family support sub-dimension of the MSPSS was 23.15 ± 4.54 , and the average points obtained from the friend support and private person support was 19.61 ± 6.45 and 14.25 ± 8.29 , respectively. Depending on the definitive features of women undergone an infertility treatment, the difference among the average MAS scores was stated to be insignificant ($p > 0.05$). The difference between the infertility treatment period and average MAS scores of women was significant; and the average MAS scores of women who had undergone treatment for less than 1 year was identified to be higher than the ones who had undergone treatment for 1 to 5 years and 6 years and over ($KW = 7.606$, $p = 0.02$). There is a significant but reverse directed, medium strength relation between MAS score and IDS scores ($r = -0.584$, $p < 0.001$). There is a significant relation between the MAS score and MSPSS ($r = 0.398$, $p < 0.001$) and its sub-dimension in the same direction (family support: $r = 0.507$, $p < 0.001$; friend support: $r = 0.336$, $p < 0.001$; private person support: $r = 0.200$, $p = 0.014$). It was identified that the psychological response level caused by infertility and treatment period influenced the marital adjustment in a negative manner while the perceived social support influenced the marital adjustment in a positive manner.

Biography

Funda Özdemir is an Associate Professor at the Ankara University. She has graduated from Ataturk University School of Nursing in 2001. She was a Lecturer at the Ataturk University; an Assistant Professor at the Ankara University.

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