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FEATURES: ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Association of Sociodemographic Factors with Spirituality and Hope in Patients with Diabetic Foot Ulcers

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE:

To evaluate levels of spirituality and hope in patients with diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs) according to sociodemographic factors.

DESIGN:

This was a primary, prospective, descriptive, analytical, and clinical study. Questionnaires assessing sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the patients, the Spirituality Self-rating Scale (SSRS), and the Herth Hope Index (HHI) were administered to all participants.

SETTING:

University-affiliated skilled nursing center and outpatient wound care clinic in Pouso Alegre, Brazil.

PATIENTS:

Fifty adult patients with DFUs participated in the study. Patients with ischemic diabetic foot and mixed ulcers were excluded from the study.

MAIN RESULTS:

On average, patients with DFUs had low levels of spirituality (mean SSRS score, 12.6) and low hope for cure (mean HHI, 16.5). Patients younger than 60 years reported significantly lower levels of spirituality (mean SSRS scores, 11.0), and those older than 70 years had significantly lower hope for cure (mean HHI, 12.5) than other age groups ($P = .040$). Level of spirituality was significantly lower among women ($P = .015$) and those living with an ulcer for more than 2 years, who also reported significantly lower hope for cure ($P = .029$) compared with patients having an ulcer for less than 2 years.

CONCLUSION:

On average, patients with DFUs, especially women and older adults, had a low sense of hope and spirituality. Except for gender, age, and ulcer duration, other sociodemographic and ulcer characteristics had no significant effect on the study population's spirituality and hope.

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