Assessing Student Empathy for Hemodialysis Patients

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Assessing Student Empathy for Hemodialysis Patients
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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Hemodialysis
• Used by 95% of kidney failure patients.¹
• Strict treatment regimen, which normally includes visiting a treatment center 3 times a week for 3 to 5 hours each visit.²
• Patients on hemodialysis experience a loss of autonomy, independence, and freedom.³,⁴
• Estimated 50% of patients on hemodialysis don’t fully adhere to their treatment regimen.⁴
• Patients on hemodialysis will be more compliant to treatment if they are satisfied with the care they are shown by providers.⁵

Empathy in Healthcare
• Ability of healthcare professionals to empathize influences the patient’s quality of care and treatment compliance.⁶
• Lower empathy levels correlate to more medical errors by physicians.⁶
• Higher empathy levels associated with more accurate diagnoses, increased patient engagement in their health care, and better adherence to therapy.⁷

Current Empathy for Patients on Hemodialysis
• No current data on the empathy levels of healthcare professionals towards patients on hemodialysis.
• Interventions could be effective in improving the empathy of healthcare professional students towards these patients, as previous interventions have shown positive results.⁸,⁹

Significance of the Problem
• Hemodialysis patients should be shown empathy, but are healthcare professionals being trained to be empathetic towards these patients?
• No current data on empathy levels of healthcare professional students towards patients on hemodialysis.
• This data is needed to develop appropriate interventions to increase student empathy towards this population.

Why students?
• Attitudes developed during school impact the future of patient-focused healthcare and patient outcomes.

OBJECTIVES

What factors influence student empathy towards patients on hemodialysis?
Objective 1: To determine what factors influence medical, pharmacy, and nursing student empathy toward patients on hemodialysis.
Objective 2: To determine medical, pharmacy, and nursing student empathy levels toward patients on hemodialysis.
Objective 3: To design and implement an intervention based on determined factors to increase student empathy in Cedarville University School of Pharmacy students.

HYPOTHESES

Objective 1:
H₀: There is no difference in factors that influence student empathy toward patients on hemodialysis.
H₁: There will be factors that have a significant impact on student empathy levels.

Objective 2:
H₀: There is no difference in empathy levels between medical, nursing, and pharmacy students toward patients on hemodialysis.
H₁: There will be a difference in empathy levels between medical, nursing and pharmacy students towards patients on hemodialysis.

REFERENCES