The Effect of Sociodemographic Features and Beliefs about Medicines on Adherence to Chronic Kidney Disease Treatment

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Abstract

Background: Several studies have shown that non-adherence is a common and increasing problem regarding those with chronic illnesses, including chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients undergoing hemodialysis (HD).

Objective: The present study aimed to investigate the influence of sociodemographic features as well as beliefs about medicines on adherence to medication treatment among HD patients.

Methodology: A sample of 168 individuals was recruited from six General Hospitals in the broader area of Athens, consisting of patients undergoing in-centre HD. Measurements were conducted with the following instruments: the Medication Adherence Rating Scale (MARS) and the Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire (BMQ).

Results: Medication adherence was associated positively with family (r= 0.24, p= 0.00) and work status (r= 0.26, p= 0.00) as well as BMQ - concern (r= 0.19, p= 0.02).

Conclusions: The present study demonstrates the importance of sociodemographic characteristics in understanding medication adherence in HD patients as well as the contribution of beliefs about medicines.

Key Words: Adherence, Medication, Hemodialysis, Chronic Kidney Disease.