

ORIGINAL PAPER

Experiences of patients with implantable cardioverter defibrillator in Turkey: A qualitative study

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Abstract

Background. There has been an increase in the number of patients with implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD). It is important to understand ICD patients' experiences with it.

Aim. The aim of this study was to describe experiences of patients with implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD).

Methodology. A qualitative approach was used. Focus group interviews were used to obtain data from 19 patients who were implanted cardioverter defibrillator at two centers in Izmir, Turkey. The patients were assigned into four groups. The data was analyzed using qualitative content analysis.

Results. The analysis revealed six main themes: activities of daily living, social life, familial relationships, emotional changes, implantable cardioverter defibrillator shocks and experiences with receiving information and counselling from health care providers.

Conclusions. It can be concluded that patients with ICD experience physical and psychological problems and are not offered the education they need. To reduce the fears of the patients and their families and to prepare them for possible life style changes, comprehensive training programs that start in the pre-implantation period and continue into the post-implantation period should be organized.

Keywords: nursing; qualitative research; implantable cardioverter defibrillator