

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY, AND METABOLIC DISORDERS

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Is the user involvement a shortcoming of diabetes-related wound healing?

Abstract:

Diabetes-related foot ulcer disease self-management and educational interventions depend on the engagement of patients, relatives, and social networks. Illuminating the patient's pathways, experiences, needs, and preferences regarding involvement is essential. We used a semi-structured interview guide for a qualitative study of interviews with 21 patients with diabetes-related foot ulcers. Patients were recruited parallel to ongoing treatment courses at the four multidisciplinary foot centres in the Eastern Danish Region of Zealand. A phenomenological-hermeneutical perspective was utilised to allow participants to share their experiences. For analysis, we adapted inspiration from Paul Ricoeur's philosophy of text interpretation.

Three themes were identified:

- 1) Becoming dependent on patient involvement to cope and comprehend,
- 2) Experiences and needs regarding the involvement of relatives and equals, and
- 3) Being vulnerable and limited by diabetes-related foot ulcers while striving for normality.

Patients' dependence on healthcare professionals' communication skills was evident while narrating the complexity and burdens of life with treatment-required diabetes-related foot ulcers. They expressed the need for involvement, shared decision-making, and individualised person-centred approaches comprising information communicated and adapted to individual and family needs and levels. One of the most crucial aspects of patient treatment is supporting the patient's self-management, often fostered through understandable information.

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This necessitates enhancing healthcare professionals' communication skills using person-centred approaches. By emphasising the need for family-centred strategies, we can improve health and well-being by involving patients, relatives, and patients' networks as active team players in the treatment process. Recent research has referred to this as the cornerstone of self-management, wound healing, and prevention.

Keywords: communication; disease self-management; foot ulcer, diabetic; health knowledge, attitudes, practice health; multidisciplinary; patient involvement.

Biography:

Research manager at the Orthopaedic Surgery Department and associate professor at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU). Her qualifications include trained Registered Nurse 1998, a master's degree of Public Health from Copenhagen University 2007, and PhD from SDU 2014. She teaches and supervises nurses and master's and PhD students from various disciplines. Her research interests primarily focus on chronic pain, diabetes-related foot ulcers, osteoporosis, consumer involvement, disease self-management, empowerment, evidence-based practice, family-centred and multidisciplinary approaches, health knowledge, attitudes, and practices, health promotion, engagement of relatives', self-efficacy, shared decision making, and methodological aspects such as epidemiology, PRO's, and qualitative research.