

Exploring the Needs of Family Caregivers of Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: A Qualitative Study.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND:

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common chronic childhood disorders that lead to dysfunction and disability in childhood and subsequently be careful. This study aimed to understand the needs of the children's caregivers in Iran.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

This qualitative research was conducted in 2016. Using purposive sampling, 27 participants from 20 families of children with ADHD were interviewed. Unstructured interviews were conducted within 6 months in Isfahan. Data gathering continued until no new data were accessed. Data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis.

RESULTS:

The results of this research are shown in three main categories: (1) The caregiver's need for having sufficient information about the disorder, its cause and treatments (pharmacological and nonpharmacological); (2) the need to have enough knowledge about communication problems while caring for a sick child; and (3) the need to improve the performance of care. They were classified under the relevant concept.

CONCLUSIONS:

Caregivers of children with ADHD have different needs and problems and assessing them would decrease the child's problems and consequently, the family's problems. It would also increase the sense of control and authority over the child's condition in the caregivers. Since this disorder is chronic and permanent, ignoring the needs of caregivers not only would cut the process of the child's treatment but would also intensify the family's and child's problems. So it is recommended to conduct further studies about each of the resulted concepts in this study and the obstacles for reaching them.