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Competent Older Adults' Preferences in Healthcare Decision Making

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The non-daily decision making in health care is required for patients with health problems and their family. The decision making process of patients are affected by the relations with a health care professional, but the influencing factors are various. The aim of this study is to investigate older adults' thoughts of family involvement and its harmony among family in health care decision making. The participants who were over 65 years, competent for understanding, and had hospitalization experience, etc. were recruited.

Seven participants (4 females and 3 males) were interviewed from three out-patient clinics, and voluntary agreed with the study participation orally and in writing. The participants were asked to semi-structured interviews after approval for the study was obtained from the ethical committee from the author's affiliated institution. Data were analyzed verbatim by content analysis.

Two of the older adults preferred to make health care decision by themselves, describing self-determination, and five preferred family involvement. The physician's opinion for their health care decision making was most important. However, the family was demanded to be involved in the decision making and played a crucial role. The participants did not mind that they suffered from illnesses, tended to rely on a physician and decided to have a treatment. They did not fight against the illness and tried to spend naturally or live to true themselves. They appreciated family involvement until they became unwell, and appreciated family thinking of them sincerely. And they mostly did not want to trouble their family.

Self-determination is needed for older people in the super-aged society of Japan. This study reports on informed consent established in Japanese healthcare and the older person's entrustment and reserve toward healthcare professionals because of the traditional ways of thinking. In addition, support based on the older person's believes, values, and cultural background is important for the decision-making in healthcare.

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Title:

Competent Older Adults' Preferences in Healthcare Decision Making

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References:

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Abstract Summary:

This study aimed to investigate the elderly patients' thoughts of family involvement and its harmony among family in health care decision making by semi-structured interviews. They perceived the relation of family until they got sick, and appreciated family thinking of them sincerely. Support based on their belief and values is important.

Content Outline:

1. Introduction

-Background of family involvement in health care decision making in Japan

2. Aim

This presentation will describe the competent elderly patients' cognition of family involvement and harmony among family in health care decision making.

3. Methods

- Qualitative descriptive design
- Interviews of 7 participants
- Qualitative content analysis

4. Results

- The competent elderly preferred to make health care decision based on their values of self-determination.
- The elderly mostly weighted on physician's opinion for their health care decision making.
- Family was demanded for involving in the decision making and played a crucial role.
- The participants spent naturally and did not fight against disease.
- They perceived the relation of family until they got sick, and appreciated family thinking of them sincerely.
- They did not want to trouble family.

First Primary Presenting Author

Primary Presenting Author

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Author Summary: She does decision making and the study on ethic. We become the member of this society and it is long and carries out many activities. As for her study, the thing about recognition and the intervention method of the nurse about the decision making in the terminal phase of the life is substantial.

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