Title:
Living with a Defibrillator

Tiffanee F. Wazny-Kohl, BSN
School of Health and Human Sciences, Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, MI, USA

Session Title:
Rising Stars of Research and Scholarship Invited Student Posters

Slot (superslotted):
RSG STR: Saturday, 18 March 2017: 7:30 AM-8:00 AM

Slot (superslotted):
RSG STR: Saturday, 18 March 2017: 9:45 AM-10:15 AM

Slot (superslotted):
RSG STR: Saturday, 18 March 2017: 1:30 PM-2:00 PM

Slot (superslotted):
RSG STR: Saturday, 18 March 2017: 3:45 PM-4:15 PM

Keywords:
Implanted cardiac defibrillator, Peace and acceptance and Uncertainty and fear

References:


Abstract Summary:
This qualitative research study describes the experience of living with an implanted cardiac defibrillator (ICD) and reports results of five adult patients living with the device. The study utilizes subjective statements of each patient, capturing their words and the story of their life with an ICD.

Learning Activity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After the presentation the learner will be able to describe the three major themes related to living with an ICD that were captured by this research study</td>
<td>Three themes are described in detail including unknown/fear, uncertainty, and peace/acceptance</td>
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<tr>
<td>The learner will be able to describe the purpose of an implanted defibrillator and its basic functions</td>
<td>The description of the ICD and the purpose of implant are described along with the most recent implant criteria</td>
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</table>

Abstract Text:
Patients with implanted cardiac defibrillators face fear, uncertainty, and many unknowns when deciding to have the device implanted. The implanted cardioverter defibrillator, or ICD, is a small titanium device implanted inside the body that is capable of delivering shock therapy directly to the heart to reverse life threatening arrhythmias. The phenomenon of uncertainty related to ICD patients has been studied internationally at length and in a few domestic quantitative studies, however few recent qualitative studies have been conducted in the USA on this topic. This qualitative study employed face-to-face interviews with five adult participants who talked about their experiences related to living with the device. Because the criteria for ICD implant changes often, many patients have the device implanted and are given little information pre-operatively. Mishel's Theory of Uncertainty was adopted for use in this study. The tool utilized was a battery of four questions developed by the researcher to ask specific details of each participant related to living with the device, their feelings of uncertainty, and lifestyle adaptation. The questions asked included "tell me about the experience of living with your defibrillator"; "tell me about a time when you experienced uncertainty specifically related to the ICD and how you dealt with it"; "tell me about any special considerations that you take while living with the device"; and "describe the timing of your diagnosis related to implant, and how these experiences affected your overall lifestyle". Patients were recruited through a device clinic in one hospital. Three dominant themes were identified including fear, uncertainty, and peace/acceptance of the device implant. Subjective statements were included in the final publication of the study results. Recommendations for further research include a larger participant population, looking at the experiences of men vs. women, and studying the specific idea of what having the ICD means to each patient.