

Kidney recipients experiences before, during and after kidney transplantation – a qualitative explorative study using in-depth interviews and participant observation

Nielsen, C., Agerskov, H., Bistrup, C., Clemensen, J.

Background

Kidney transplantation is considered to be the best treatment for terminal renal insufficiency. Kidney transplant patients report higher quality of life because they avoid regular dialysis treatment that causes side effects, complications, restrictions and limitations in their daily lives. After the transplant, there is often a need for less medication and the possible side effects of the immunosuppressant treatment are outweighed by the increased quality of life. The transplant is a milestone, but the whole process is based on close contact with the health services, before and after the kidney transplant, through outpatient visits and during possible hospitalization, which can occur due to complications or disease progression.

Objective

To explore the coherence of the kidney transplant process in order to explain the lived experiences of kidney recipients before, during and after kidney transplantation.

Method

Participant observation and semi-structured individual interviews was conducted with kidney recipients before, during and after kidney transplantation. Data analysis is inspired by Ricoeur's interpretation theory on three levels: Naive reading; structural analysis and critical interpretation and discussion.

Results

The experiences of the kidney recipients will be presented in the emerging themes from the analysis supported by citations from field notes and interviews. Data analysis is ongoing, and will be ended with in a few months. The results will be presented at "Nordisk Njurmedicinsk Vårkonferens 2017". The preliminary results in relation to the experiences of the kidney recipients describe the kidney transplantation process as a complex process containing both medical, psychological and relational issues.

Submitting author:

Charlotte Nielsen, MScN, RN, PhD -student, Department of Nephrology, Odense University Hospital and Clinical Institute, University of Southern Denmark.

Co- authors

Hanne Agerskov, PhD, Assistant professor, Research Nurse, Department of Nephrology, Odense University Hospital and Clinical Institute, University of Southern Denmark.

Claus Bistrup, PhD, Consultant, Department of Nephrology, Odense University Hospital, Denmark.

Jane Clemensen, PhD, Associate professor, Head of Clinical Research at Center for Innovative Medical Technology, Odense University Hospital and Clinical Institute, University of Southern Denmark