

Knowledge levels among elderly people with diabetes mellitus – A preliminary study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Education for diabetes mellitus is not only acceptable, but it is now recognized as an urgent need for modern citizens, and especially for the elderly, as the dimensions of the disease are enormous. Education is a comprehensive process of reassessing the attitude and culture of society towards the acceptance of diversity and the better treatment of sick people.

Purpose: To assess the knowledge of older adults of Open Care Centers for the elderly (KAPI) for diabetes mellitus, which is then evaluated with the help of an appropriate questionnaire. The questionnaire is likely to be used as a teaching tool, to increase the knowledge of diabetes mellitus in the elderly.

Materials and Methods: The collection of numerical data was conducted through a structured questionnaire based on Greenhalgh, Helman and Chowdhury (1998). The questionnaire was approved in Greek after

translation and appropriate adaptation. The questionnaires were collected in two phases, the pilot and the primary phase. In both cases, the responses were recorded on a MS excel Computer Sheet and then transferred to the IBM SPSS v.21 database (Windows environment version) for processing.

Results: In the sample survey for the 1st record, men were 31 (36.5%), significantly less than women who were 45 (52.9%). In the second phase, the percentages of men and women appear significantly lower, as many of the participants did not record their gender. However, women are still more than men (43.5% versus 28.6%).

Conclusions: The training course, combined with the short and clearly formulated questionnaire, made it easy to correct the mistakes made by the participants during the first recording.

Keywords: Old age, knowledge, diabetes

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