



45th EDTNA/ERCA International Conference

September 17–20, 2016

The Valencia Conference Centre, Valencia, Spain

Conference Theme: **Quality versus Cost
Sustainable Renal Care**

Interconnected care in haemodialysis: patient, nurse and informal caregiver

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Valencia, September 17-20, 2016

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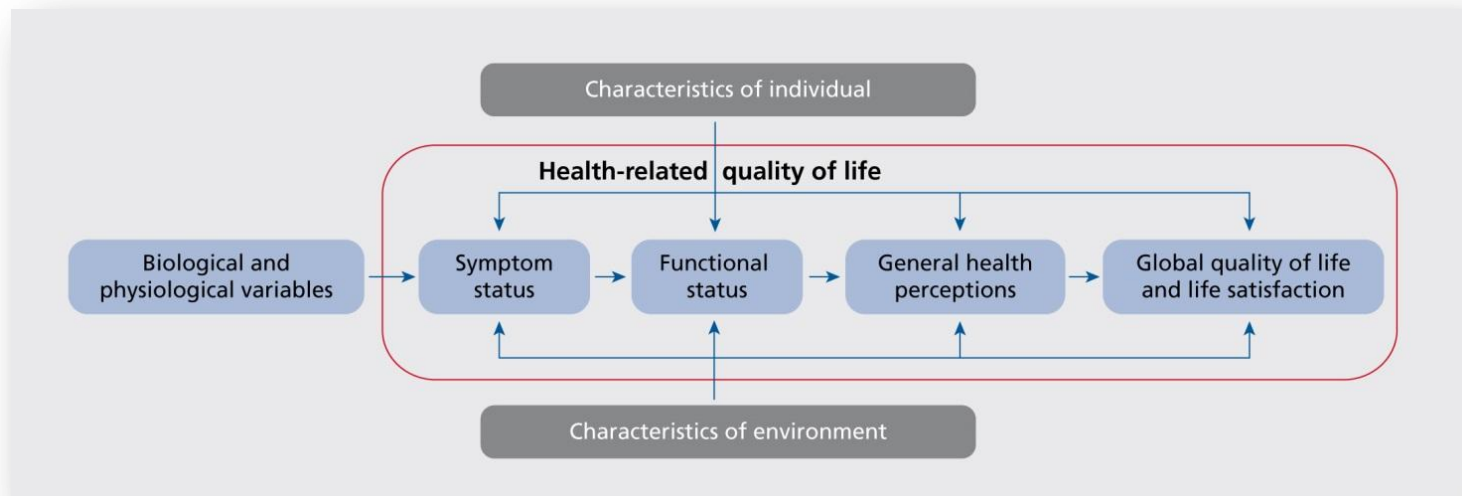
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Introduction

- In the context of Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL), it is mandatory to ascertain what perceptions individual patients have when it comes to their own health and not purely rely on the traditional clinical measures.
- This concept covers several scientific areas and research fields such as social integration and support, satisfaction with life and physical condition, affective and relational capacity, network backup of all players involved in the world of healthcare.

Introduction

- Conceptual model for Health-Related Quality of Life



Objectives

To accomplish the survey-related objectives of this study we try:

- i. To understand on how the informal caregiver (IC) and nurses interrelate with the rest of the network of haemodialysis patient's relationships;
- ii. To identify the importance of Informal Caregiver such as firefighters and taxi drivers.



Methods

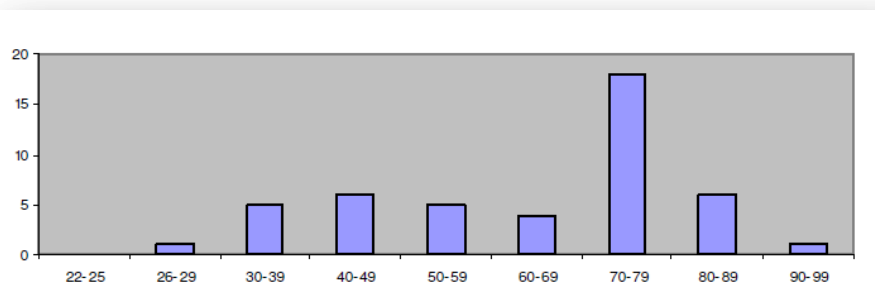
The methodology followed use a qualitative instrument through analysis by "Sickness Impact Profile", translated to the Portuguese language. The Sickness Impact Profile (SIP), a behaviourally based measure of sickness-related dysfunction, is being developed in an effort to provide an appropriate, valid, and sensitive measure of health status that will aid in assessing the outcome of health care services. Scales were validated by Mann-Whitney's Tests and Spearman correlation.

A group of 112 haemodialysis patients undergoing treatment in our clinic were assessed. Surveys were carried out and data was collected from May, 2012 to June, 2013.

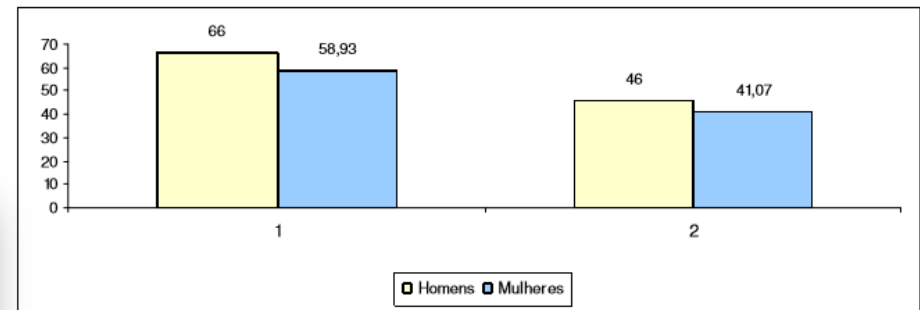
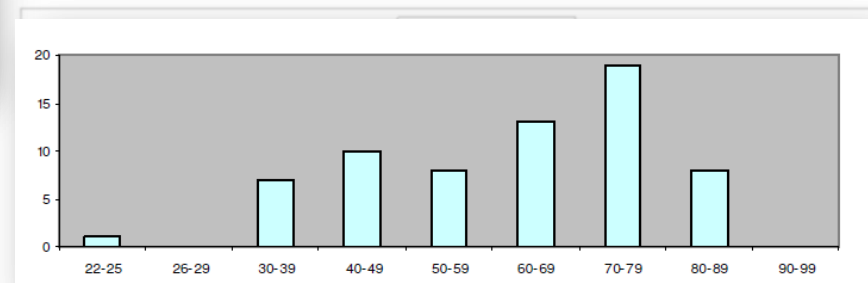
Methods

The distribution of the sample (n = 112) presents a fraction, mostly male reaching 66 individuals. The female population includes 46 elements in terms of percentile translates into 41.07%, where the element with greater longevity, in hemodialysis, (92 years old).

Age-range (women)



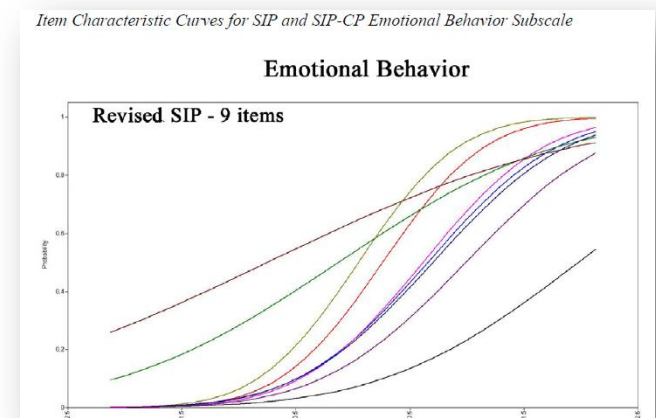
Age-range (men)



Results

The results of this study shows that the patients' feelings of wellbeing increase with the presence of the all the actors in the haemodialysis world. We obtained statements describing the importance of the presence and the interactions with health care professionals and the individuals caring for patients, also known as informal caregivers.

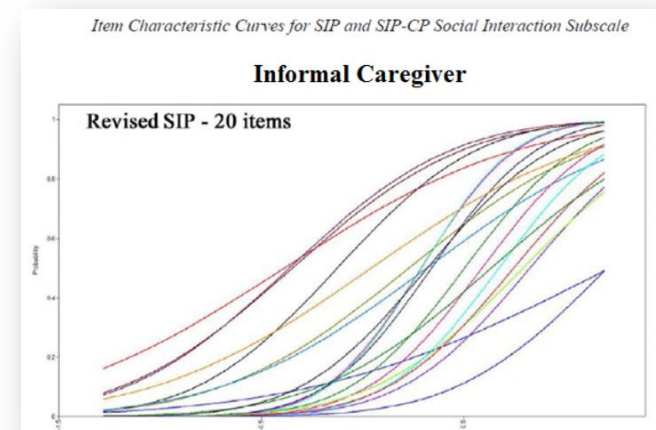
Item Characteristic Curves for SIP and SIP-CP: Emotional Behavior Subscale



Results

Our outcomes highlighted the importance of the support received from health professionals and caregivers, their loved ones and the techniques employed during haemodialysis treatment. An equally important finding is related to the Informal Caregiver such as the role of the taxi driver who revealed themselves as privileged element and connecting link between the different actors.




Item Characteristic Curves for SIP and SIP-CP: Informal Caregiver



Conclusions

The Informal Caregiver, who is very rarely spoken about, proved to be a key player, exercising a therapeutic role thanks to their ability to help, the chance to observe and establishing trust with the dialysis patient, family and clinical staff.

The Informal Caregiver was described as being:

-  a courier between clinical staff, hospital and family;
-  a source of information of the condition of the patient and update;
-  an helping hand.

Thank You Very Much for Your Attention!

Acknowledgments

Anabela Vieira	Administrative Fresenius Medical Care Dialysis Centre Braga, Braga – Portugal
Filomena Vieira	Head Nurse Fresenius Medical Care Dialysis Centre Braga, Braga – Portugal
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