

Emotion Distress and Self-Care Behavior in Type II Diabetes Mellitus Patients in Matsum, Medan, North Sumatera

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ABSTRACT

Background: Diabetes mellitus (DM) is currently one of the major health problems in the world because it has an impact on declining productivity and quality of human resources. This disease also causes sufferers to experience a state of disability, loss of productivity, and become a burden for individuals, families and communities that can cause emotional distress in people with diabetes mellitus. The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of emotional distress on self-care behavior of people with type 2 diabetes mellitus at the Matsum Health Center.

Subjects and Method: This study used a cross sectional design conducted at Matsum Health Center in Medan. The number of samples was 49 people and taken with non-probability sampling technique by quota sampling. The dependent variable was self-care behavior. The independent variable was emotional distress. Data were collected by questionnaires and analyzed using Chi square test.

Results: Low emotional distress increases self-care behavior in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (OR= 11.33; 95% CI with p = 0.004).

Conclusion: Low emotional distress increases self-care behavior in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Keywords: Emotional distress, self-care behavior, diabetes.

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BACKGROUND

DM and its complications are a big problem especially in developing countries including Indonesia. DM and its complications also directly affect human productivity. Global data shows that there are 415 million DM sufferers worldwide (1 in 11 suffer from DM) and it is estimated that there will be 642 million DM sufferers by 2040 (IDF, 2016). According to the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Report in 2015, Indonesia is in the top 10 with the highest number of DM sufferers in the world. In 2015, it was ranked 7th with an average number of sufferers of 10 million people (8.7-10.9 million). It is estimated to be ranked 6th in 2040 with an average

number of sufferers of 16.2 million people (14.3 -17.7 million).

The prevalence of DM in Indonesia in 2015 was 8.7%. It increased four times compared to the Riskesdas (Basic Health Research) 2013 data which was only 2.1% (IDF, 2016).

DM in Medan is more common in women, which is 1295 cases. This requires attention and follow-up for prevention and treatment because an increase in the prevalence of type 2 diabetes will be followed by an increase in other disease complications. The problem of DM and its effects has received worldwide attention, including the Government of Indonesia. The Ministry of Health has also developed several programs to prevent and overcome

DM such as: prevention and control of risk factors; early discovery and case management; epidemiological surveillance; and communication, information and education (IEC) about DM (Ministry of Health, 2014).

The main risk factors for type 2 diabetes are obesity and lack of physical activity. The low level of physical activity will affect the occurrence of type 2 diabetes. Based on Riskesdas in 2007, physical activity in the age group >10 years was 48.2% and the prevalence had decreased to 26.1% Riskesdas' results in the 2013. Several epidemiological studies were increasing also showed an association between physical activity and the incidence of type 2 diabetes. The main key to type 2 diabetes therapy is through diet and lifestyle adjustments to prevent and overcome obesity, pharmacological and nonpharmacological strategies to reduce glucose levels, and treatment to reduce cardiovascular risk especially lowering blood pressure and cholesterol (Bilous and Donnelly, 2014).

At the psychological level, stress in the form of rejection, worry, feelings of helplessness, and bad stigma about stressful is also able to produce negative or non-constructive feelings towards self. Intellectually, it can affect the perception and ability of individuals to solve problems and take care of themselves. Treatment provided is given in the form of a program that is quite strict and requires good self-care skills and is emphasized in an effort to control blood sugar levels. It is generally known that the level of adherence in the treatment of chronic diseases and lifestyle changes is a difficult problem and only reaches around 50%.

The results showed that adherence in one treatment was not related to adherence to other treatments. For example, adherence to medical treatment is greater than adherence to lifestyle changes (Alam

et al., 2016). Forms of self-care activities that constitute adherence to lifestyle changes include nutrition management, physical activity, and monitoring of independent blood glucose levels (Naderimaghani et al, 2012).

From the preliminary survey results in the Matsum Health Center 7 out of 10 DM patients do not do sports or physical activities due to laziness, busyness and the presence of other diseases such as gout. The management of type 2 DM so far in health center only moves on physical health, namely preventing acute and chronic complications, while psychological and social aspects have not been reached. In addition, from the interviews with 15 DM patients 11 of them said that they became irritable and easily offended because they felt anxious and useless to their families. So, they were lazy to seek treatment and felt life had no meaning and always became a parasite for their families.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether there was an effect of emotional distress on the self-care behavior of people with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in the Matsum Health Center or not.

SUBJECT AND METHOD

1. Design of the Study

This study was an analytic study using cross sectional design.

2. Population and sample

The population in this study were all patients with type 2 DM who underwent outpatient treatment at Matsum Health Center and the samples were 49 people.

3. Study Variables

The dependent variable of this study was self-care behavior. The independent variable was emotional distress.

4. Operational Definition of Variables

The operational definition of the dependent variable of self-care behavior was the acti-

vity carried out independently by people with Type 2 diabetes which included diet / dietary management, physical activity, monitoring of blood glucose levels, drug consumption, and foot care carried out in the last 7 days. For the independent variable, emotional distress was the self-statement about the burden experienced related to the illness.

5. Study Instrument

The instrument of the study used was the Diabetes Distress Scale (DDS) questionnaire and the self-care behavior question-

Table 1. Sample characteristics of type 2 diabetes mellitus patients in Matsum Health Center, Medan

Category	n	%
Age		
< 46 years old	8	16.3
≥ 46 years old	41	83.7
Gender		
Male	12	24.49
Female	37	75.51
Drug Consumption		
Doctor's prescription	8	16.33
Herbal medicine	7	14.29
Do not consume drugs	34	69.39
Duration of illness		
< 5 years	2	4.08
≥ 5 years	47	95.92

2. Bivariate analysis

Table 2 showed bivariate analysis. Table 2 showed that 34 samples (91.9%) with low emotional distress had good self-care

Table 2. The effect of emotional distress of self-care behavior on diabetes mellitus patients

Emotional Distress	Self-care behavior				OR	95% CI	p
	Good		Poor				
	n	%	n	%			
Low	34	91.94	3	8.12	11.33	2.21 to 58.15	0.004
High	6	50	6	50			

DISCUSSION

Diabetes distress is a unique emotional problem that is directly related to the burden and worries of living with a chronic illness. This condition is indicated by 'worry, frustration, and maybe a little

naire through the Summary of Diabetes Self Care Activities (SDSCA).

6. Data Analysis

The data were analyzed by Spearman rank.

RESULTS

1. Univariate analysis

Table 1 showed sample characteristics. Table 1 showed that sample mostly were at age ≥46 years old (83.7%), female (75.51%), did not consume diabetic drugs (69.39%), and duration of illness ≥5 years (95.52%).

behavior. Low emotional distress increased good self-care behavior (OR= 11.33; p= 0.004).

fatigue. These emotions can be related to, for example, to concerns about appropriate treatment or to communicate effectively with health care providers (Gebel, 2013). The results of this study indicate that low emotional distress increases self-care

behavior in patients with type 2 DM in Matsum Health Center, Medan.

Stress has effects on self-care behavior or diabetes management that are not fully understood by health services. The impact of stress is a confounding variable that can affect a person's ability to manage diabetes, so that it has a bad impact on metabolic control and psychological well-being. Rubin and Peyrot (2001) in Wardian (2014) explained that psychosocial issues have effects on diabetes self-management and self-care that are not fully understood by health workers. There is a significant association between emotional aspects with the low level of independence of someone to do self-care activities. Psychosocial barriers to diabetes distress and the low level of independence of a person in conducting self-care activities are caused by several factors such as self-efficacy. Wingert et al. (2015) suggested that high self-efficacy increases one's compliance with carrying out self-care activities.

According to individual researchers who have diabetes mellitus in controlling the state of hyperglycemia requires changes in lifestyle and diet. However, for diabetics who are still in the early stages, this is very difficult to do because over the past decades their habits must be changed to a healthy lifestyle. For diabetic patients who undergo a brief change in healthy lifestyle is not easy and makes individuals feel stressed and even depressed (Smeltzer & Bare, 2006). Conditions in people who suffer from it are feeling worried, depressed, and feeling burdened with their illnesses, so they need support from someone.

This support can be obtained from the closest people such as family, husband, wife, or children. With this support, stress is expected to be reduced so that the treatment of diabetic patients becomes orderly and disciplined. This is also supported by a

study conducted by Irfan & Wibowo (2015), which stated that one solution to reduce the stress level experienced by diabetics is to seek support from the family. Family support is expected to make stress turn into something positive.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Susy Hariaty Situmorang collected data and analyzed data. Namora Lumongga Lubis examined the conceptual framework and suggested a methodology. Kintoko Rochadi interpreted the results of data analysis.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest.

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