Role of Nurse Practitioners in Shared Decision Making: Examples of Heart Failure Patients in Rural Hospital

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Background

Shared Decision Making (SDM) has been widely applied in clinical practice. Rural and elderly patients have significant deviations from urban residents in their health-seeking habits, preferences, values and access to medical information.

Methods

The aim of this paper is to discuss from nurse practitioners' point of view of about the challenges and factors that influence the experiences of the implementation of SDM in rural hospitals. The results of this synthesis will contribute to proper implementation of SDM in low health literacy areas in the future.

Results

The process of implementing SDM in rural hospitals, doctors in attendance had limited knowledge due to time factors and patient health knowledge. Often unable to really understand the pros and cons of the treatment, or they had explained it in detail, but they could not agree with it.

The elderly living in rural areas respect "doctors" and do not dare to question doctors. They are often unable to effectively express their thoughts in front of doctors, or they may have misunderstandings without realizing it.



Conclusions

Nurse Practitioners are dedicated to improving core competencies such as professionalism, problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and integrated care. They actively promote the clinical application of SDM for chronic diseases. Older adults in rural areas have high confidence in specialists and maintain good interactions with them. Nurse Practitioners, playing a vital communication and coordination role, are key to promoting SDM, but must consider ethnic, cultural, and demographic characteristics of rural residents while integrating existing medical services.



