Psychological adjustment after lung transplantation - a new empirical approach with a visualising method (PRISM)

Summary / Zusammenfassung
Background: In transplant medicine, the mental processing of the transplantation is an important clinical topic. Until to date, only some case-study investigations were concerned with this topic, regarding for example the change of the recipient’s self presentation, or the forms of coping and defence following a transplant. Moreover, patient’s adherence is a vital requirement for the medium- and longer-term success of an organ transplant. Medical as well as psychological reasons for non-adherence are known to date. However, these explanations rarely provide a deeper understanding of psychological reasons, why certain transplant patients show non-adherence behaviour.

Methods: This study investigates the psychodynamic processing of a lung transplant and relations to the adherence behaviour. In a qualitative part, 40 patients after lung transplantation are to be questioned as to their thoughts and feelings concerning the transplantation, the new organ, the donor and their medication at three time points (two weeks, three months and six months post-transplant, MP1 – MP3). The interview uses both visualization and verbalization methods (PRISM, Pictorial Representation of Illness and Self Measure, semistructured interviews). In the quantitative part, validated test instruments are to be used with respect to the attachment style (ECR) as well as quality of life (EuroQuol-5), sense of coherence (SOC-13), psychological distress (SCL-K-9) and the emotional processing of the transplantation (included adherence behaviour, TxEQ-D). First experiences with five transplant patients show the feasibility and high acceptance of PRISM among transplant patients, above all regarding the visualising of the transplant, the drugs and the deceased donor.

Publications / Publikationen

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Funding Source(s) / Unterstützt durch
Foundation

In Collaboration with / In Zusammenarbeit mit
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Duration of Project / Projektdauer
Jul 2012 to Jul 2016