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ثبكة المعلومات الجامعية







Identification of The Risk Factors Affecting The Nutritional Status Of Hospitalized Elderly Patients In Shebin El- Kom

Thesis

Submitted In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Master Degree in Community Health Nursing

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بسنم الله الرحمن الرحيم

"وقضى مربك ألا تعبدوا إلا إياه و بالوالدين إحسانا إما يبلغن عندك الكبر أحدهما أوكلاهما فلا تقل لهما أف ولا تنهرهما وقل لهما قولاكريما وأخفض لهما جناح الذل من الرحمة وقل مرب أمرحمهما كما مربياني صغص

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سورة الإسراء أية رقم (٢٣-٢٤)

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CHAPTER (1)

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Aging is an inevitable and irreversible process. Mean while aging has been defined as a universal human experience that defines human finitude (Smith and Maurer, 1995). In addition WHO, (1994) stated that aging is not a disease, but is a developmental process starts with conception and ends with deaths.

A rapid increase of elderly all over the world is due to a decreased death rate and increase life expectancy. In addition to the elderly are more vulnerable to physical, emotional, and socio-economic problems than other age groups that place them at risk specially for malnutrition that may require special attention to health promotion and maintenance (WHO, 1994; Eliopoulos, 1990).

Most of the elderly individuals are concentrated in the rural areas than urban areas in the countries of the Eastern Mediterrian. In many cases, they are not cared for by their children who have migrated either to urban areas or to other countries. The elderly expected to receive health care from the hospital and through primary health care system (WHO, 1994; Ashour, 1992).

As noted in later years, there is highly prevalent threats to nutritional status and more than one third of hospitalized elderly patients are at risk of malnutrition (Grodner et al., 1996; Eliopoulos, 1990). In addition Smith and Maurer, (1995) and Monahan et al., (1994) reported that malnutrition has been recognized as common problem among the hospitalized elderly patients, they are vulnerable to malnutrition for a variety of reasons including physiological changes associated with aging, in addition to the psychosocial and environmental factors. This condition is associated with an increased morbidity and mortality.

Of patients admitted to hospitals, 35-55 % are malnourished on admission; 25-30 % more become malnourished during the stay, Approximately 50 % of hospitalized patients are malnourished to some degree (Stanfield and Hui, 1997; Sullivan and Lipschitz, 1997). In one study, from 1.3 % to 17.4 % of hospitalized patients were found to have severe or mild protein-caloric malnutrition (Hendricks et al., 1995; Bristrain et al., 1976).

It is important to start nutritional assessment when the elderly individual becomes placed in a hospital and to be effective it requires the cooperation of the entire health team. The nurses' knowledge of the changes associated with aging process enable her to accurately differentiate between normal and abnormal findings in assessing the hospitalized elderly patients who at risk of diet-related to clinical disorders (Monahan et al., 1994; Eliopoulos, 1990).

Nurses are usually the first health care workers with whom the hospitalized patient comes in contact and in addition to hospital staffing may necessitate the nursing staff perform some basic nutritional assessment and nutritional counselling (Grodner et al., 1996).

Nutrition plays a significant role in the aging process. Not only is nutrition one of the determinants of the number of years one will live, but it also affects the quality of those years (Eliopoulos, 1990). In addition to the capacity for recovery from illness or disease depends on nutritional status (Grodner et al., 1996; Butterworth, 1974).

The need for more researches on the role of health team, according to the available modifiable, non-modifiable, and predisposing factors in determining nutritional status of the hospitalized elderly patients who at risk of diet-related to clinical disorders is very urgent or very important (Monahan et al., 1994; Eliopoulos, 1990).