

P-464 - CARING FOR PATIENTS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN NURSING HOMES

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The literature on the experiences of Iranian caregivers of older adults with Alzheimer disease is scarce. This qualitative study explored the caring experiences of caregivers in nursing homes. Our participants included 10 female and 4 male caregivers aged 25 to 38 years who were selected for interviewing based on a purposive sampling method. The data were analyzed with a thematic analysis method. Nearly 900 initial codes were extracted and categorized into 7 main themes including "routine daily physical care", "managing difficult symptoms", "dependence on familial care", "continuum of feelings", "care for a child", "living with the patients" and "not understanding the patients", which was further analyzed in the two subcategories "caring without enough information" and "a dead man moving". The care our informants provided was mainly physical and was influenced by caregivers' attitudes and cultural beliefs about family attachment. Employment of trained staff and plans for their continued education can improve the quality of care and the quality of the patient's life.