

Experiences of daily activities within two weeks after hospital discharge among Taiwanese elderly patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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摘要

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to explore the experiences of daily activities among elderly patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) within 2 weeks after hospital discharge. Seven male and two female COPD patients aged 65-80 were interviewed. Interviews were tape recorded, and then transcribed verbatim within 48 hours. Data were analyzed according to the method of qualitative research through constant comparison and content analysis. The data generated seven themes: (1) expectations beyond one's strength; (2) fear of having another attack; (3) slowing and simplifying activities; (4) acting according to one's abilities; (5) protecting oneself; (6) striving for an independent life; and (7) trying to continue living. The findings of this research can help health professionals understand experiences of COPD patients, sensitively and precisely recognize their daily activity needs, and provide suitable interventions during the discharge transition to facilitate a better quality of life for elderly patients.