

Poster presentation

The lived experience of family resilience after a spinal cord injury: a study using the Parse research method

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Background

Spinal cord injury is one of the most disastrous injuries a person may experience. Although one family member experiences the injury, the entire family is affected.

Aim

The purpose of this study is to explore the universal real life experience of this tragedy and to develop an insight into the subsequent family resilience.

Methods

The Parse' Research Methodology was used. Data was collected from July/2006 to Jan./2007 through tape-recorded dialogical engagement and then analyzed by extraction-synthesis and heuristic interpretation. Participants were 7 clients (spinal cord injury patients) and their respective family caregiver.

Results

The findings show that the universal real life ("lived") experience of family resilience for the family caregivers are as follows: to sacrifice wholeheartedly, to fortify the sense of being in this adversity with triumph, to offer restraint and optimism, to construct a "reachable" dream.

Discussion

The findings are discussed in relation to human becoming, related literature and future research.

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