Abstract

Original Article

The Effect of Individualized Drug Education on Medication Adherence among Patients Using Biologic Drugs

Serap Korkmaz, RN, MSc, PhD (c) Gulhane Military Medical Academy, School of Nursing, Ankara, Turkey

Sevinc Tastan, RN, PhD Associate Professor, Gulhane Military Medical Academy, School of Nursing, Ankara, Turkey

Salih Pay, MD, PhD Professor, Gulhane Military Medical Academy, Rheumatology Department, Ankara, Turkey

Correspondence: Serap Korkmaz, PhD Student, Gulhane Military Medical Academy, School of Nursing, Ankara, Turkey, E-mail: serapsariman@hotmail.com

Abstract

Introduction: Biologic drugs are currently used extensively in a number of clinical areas for the initial treatment of rheumatic diseases. When these patients fail to follow their treatment plans, they may experience serious disease. Patient education is important for promoting adherence to treatment. This study aimed to investigate the effect of individualized drug education on medication adherence among patients using biologic drugs.

Methods: Included 60 patients using biologic drugs, including 30 patients receiving subcutaneous drugs and 30 patients receiving intravenous drugs. The data collection tools were the Introductory Information Form, the Modified Morisky Scale (MMS) and The World Health Organization-Five Well-Being Index (WHO-5). The patients were then given education related to their prescribed drugs.

Results: After education, significant increases in MMS knowledge level was observed among patients using intravenous biologic drugs and significant increases in MMS knowledge and motivation levels were observed among patients using subcutaneous biologic drugs.

Conclusion: Based on the study results, individualized drug education exerts positive effects on patient quality of life and drug adherence.

Keywords: Biologic drugs, individualized drug education, medication adherence.