The management of chronic diseases is one of the tasks of all members of the health team, and different models need to be applied in the practice of chronic care management. One of these models is home care services. There are two main sections in this book. In the first part of the section, the concept of caregiving and care at home is explained. In the second part, the responsibilities of caregivers at home and the responsibilities of caregivers of people who have health problems that occur during different periods of life are discussed. In the second section, the problems of caregivers are also included.

I would like to think that what is quoted in this book, which contains examples from different cultures of the world for home care approaches, will contribute to the development of home care services. This book is presented to all health professionals working in the field of health services as well as health politics professionals and students trained in these areas.
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Overburden in Alzheimer’s Patient Caregivers

María del Carmen Pérez-Fuentes, María del Mar Molero Jurado and José Jesús Gázquez Linares

Abstract

The figure of the caregiver of dependent elderly people is presently the subject of a large volume of scientific publications. In various disciplines of health and social sciences, an analysis of the terminology referring to these caregivers, specifically those who are untrained and unpaid for such care, in recent scientific publications, is considered necessary. This chapter makes a comprehensive analysis of the characteristics and needs of caregivers of elderly dependents with Alzheimer’s disease. From a realistic and practical point of view, it is the impact of research on improving the quality of life of caregivers which is important. In addition, this analysis attempts to complete a process addressing theoretical and methodological aspects, in which various problems are detected, for their effective application in the field of care of dependency.

Keywords: overburden, Alzheimer’s patients, caregivers, intervention, quality of life

1. Introduction

Sometimes, living longer involves dependence on care in which the needs become more and more obvious. One of the most frequent causes of such dependency in the elderly population is Alzheimer’s disease. Over 35 million people were suffering from some type of dementia in 2010 and world forecasts for 2030 and 2050 double and triple this figure, respectively [1]. In this urgent scope of action, the World Health Organization [2] takes a stand by identifying dementia as one of today’s priority public health problems.

Even though there are a multitude of care models and resources placed at the service of these patients [3, 4], a large part of this population receives care within their own family setting [5]. This is why the volume of research analyzing the profile of the family caregiver, skills


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