

Exploring Psychosocial Challenges Among Patients with Sickle Cell Disease: A Cross-Sectional Study in Basra City, Iraq

Abstract

This descriptive cross-sectional study examines the psychosocial challenges of sickle cell disease (SCD) among patients in Basra city, Iraq. Conducted over three months at the Basra Hematology Center in Al Sayyab Teaching Hospital, the study enrolled 120 patients aged 15 and above diagnosed with SCD or sickle thalassemia. Utilizing structured interviews and standardized questionnaires, the study aimed to comprehend the impact of SCD on various facets of patients' lives, including education, employment, relationships, and mental health. Results: revealed a prevalence of psychosocial challenges, with a significant proportion reporting difficulties in education, career choices, social relationships, and mental well-being. Pain intensity assessments using the Visual Analog Scale underscored the severity of pain experienced by participants. Additionally, socio-demographic factors such as age showed associations with pain scores. However, further research is warranted to explore the intricate dynamics between these factors and the profound impact of SCD on patients' lives.

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