







RESILIENCE AND SELF-CARE IN PEOPLE WITH DIABETES MELLITUS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to investigate the association between resilience and self-care in people with diabetes mellitus treated in Primary Health Care.

Method: Cross-sectional study, sample consisting of 362 people, aged 18 years or older, diagnosed with diabetes for at least one year. Descriptive analyzes and comparison of means were performed, assuming statistical significance with a value of $p < 0.05$. The Resilience Scale and Questionnaire on Diabetes Self-Care Activities were applied, containing six dimensions: general food, specific food, physical activity, blood glucose monitoring, foot care, medication use, plus three items on smoking. Data collection took place between December and May 2016, in ten Health Centers in a city in the south of the country.

Results: among the 15 self-care activities, four showed a statistically significant association when compared to the average resilience, highlighting: healthy eating and professional guidance, desirable sweet consumption, blood sugar assessment as recommended.

Conclusion: the results obtained highlight the relationship between high averages of resilience and adequate performance in the care of diabetes mellitus.

DESCRIPTORS: Nursing. Diabetes mellitus. Psychological resilience. Self-care. Primary health care.

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RESILIÊNCIA E AUTOCUIDADO EM PESSOAS COM DIABETES MELLITUS

RESUMO

Objetivo: investigar a associação entre resiliência e autocuidado em pessoas com diabetes mellitus atendidas na Atenção Primária à Saúde.

Método: Estudo transversal, amostra composta por 362 pessoas, com idade igual ou superior a 18 anos, com diagnóstico de diabetes há pelo menos um ano. Foram realizadas análises descritivas e de comparação de médias, assumindo significância estatística com valor de $p < 0,05$. Aplicou-se Escala de Resiliência e Questionário de Atividades de Autocuidado com Diabetes, contendo seis dimensões: alimentação geral, alimentação específica, atividade física, monitorização da glicemia, cuidados com pés, uso de medicamento, acrescidos de três itens sobre tabagismo. A coleta de dados ocorreu entre dezembro a maio de 2016, em dez Centros de Saúde de uma capital do sul do país.

Resultados: das 15 atividades de autocuidado, quatro apresentaram associação estatisticamente significativa quando comparadas à média de resiliência, destacando-se: alimentação saudável e orientação profissional, consumo de doces desejável, avaliação do açúcar no sangue conforme recomendado.

Conclusão: os resultados obtidos apontam a relação entre médias altas de resiliência e o desempenho adequado nos cuidados do diabetes mellitus.

DESCRITORES: Enfermagem. Diabetes *mellitus*. Resiliência psicológica. Autocuidado. Atenção primária à saúde.

ARTÍCULO ORIGINAL RESILIENCIA Y AUTOCUIDADO EN PERSONAS CON DIABETES MELLITUS

RESUMEN

Objetivo: investigar la asociación entre resiliencia y autocuidado en personas con diabetes mellitus tratadas en Atención Primaria de Salud.

Método: estudio transversal, muestra compuesta por 362 personas, mayores de 18 años, diagnosticadas con diabetes durante al menos un año. Se realizaron análisis descriptivos y comparación de promedios, asumiendo significación estadística con un valor de $p < 0,05$. Se aplicó la Escala de Resiliencia y el Cuestionario sobre las actividades de autocuidado de la diabetes, que contiene seis dimensiones: alimentación general, alimentación específica, actividad física, monitoreo de glucosa en sangre, cuidado de los pies, uso de medicamentos, más tres artículos sobre fumar. La recopilación de datos tuvo lugar entre diciembre y mayo de 2016, en diez centros de salud en una capital en el sur del país.

Resultados: de las 15 actividades de autocuidado, cuatro han mostrado una asociación estadísticamente significativa en comparación con el promedio de resiliencia, destacando: alimentación saludable y orientación profesional, consumo de dulces, evaluación de azúcar en la sangre según lo recomendado.

Conclusión: los resultados obtenidos apuntan a la relación entre altos promedios de resiliencia y desempeño adecuado en el cuidado de la diabetes mellitus.

DESCRIPTORES: Enfermería. Diabetes mellitus. Resiliencia psicológica. Autocuidado. Atención primaria de salud.

INTRODUCTION

According to data from the International Diabetes Federation, ¹ the prevalence of diabetes mellitus affects approximately 8.8% of the world population. In Central and South American countries, it is estimated that 26 million people have this disease, with Brazil ranked fourth in the ranking of the 10 countries with the highest number of people with DM: approximately 12.5 million Brazilians live with the disease, with 5.7 million unaware of their diagnosis.¹ According to data from the Surveillance of Risk and Protection Factors for Chronic Diseases by Survey By telephone in 2013, there was a 6.9% prevalence of DM in men and women in the population.² In addition to this expansion of the disease, its severity and complexity for the person and their family and the impact it has on the Brazilian health system must be considered, as the changes that this can bring to the lives of people tend to compromise their quality of life.

Thus, it is necessary to develop health education in relation to self-care for people with DM. This can be defined as a set of practices and activities that the person performs for their own benefit in maintaining life, health and well-being. It is about ceasing to be passive in relation to the care and guidelines proposed by health professionals.³ Studies have shown that people with DM have better adherence to drug treatment and have greater difficulty in adhering to diet and exercise.⁴⁻⁵

Health professionals, particularly nurses, aim to promote the health of people with DM, so that they can have better control over the disease. Promoting the person's adherence to care and treatments is of great relevance for the adequate management of DM. This can be achieved by encouraging lifestyle changes that promote adjustments for living with chronicity. The guidelines on self-care received by the person with DM, the fact of adopting healthy lifestyle habits and the skills to perform them imply prevention and reduction of complications caused by DM.⁶

Resilience is a construct that can contribute to disease management by people with DM, it is considered as the ability to overcome adverse situations, leaving them strengthened or transformed.⁷ Regarding chronic health conditions, resilience appears as a way to adapt to the disease in a more successful manner, accepting the limitations imposed by the condition, with due adherence to treatment, seeking to adapt to the situation and live positively.⁸

Studies on resilience have been increasing worldwide in the area of health and nursing, initially with traumatic situations and more recently with studies that indicate relevance in the treatment of chronic health conditions such as DM.⁹⁻¹¹

The possible relationship between resilience and the self-care of people with DM is questioned in this study, with the hypothesis that those who have better resilience may have better adherence to the proposed treatment. The possibility of using this construct in search of practices that reinforce health care is questioned, contributing to people with DM having better quality of life.

Aiming to respond to the proposal, it was decided to study the relationship between the resilience of people with DM and self-care. Therefore, the objective is: to investigate the association between resilience and self-care in people with diabetes mellitus treated in Primary Health Care.

METHOD

A cross-sectional observational study conducted with people with DM treated in Primary Health Care (PHC) in the city of Florianópolis/SC, from December 2015 to May 2016.

A population of 6,251 people was obtained from the number of visits to people with DM at the 49 Health Centers (HCs) in Florianópolis, according to the record of one year of attendance by professionals in the period from 01/09/2014 to 08/30/2015, provided by the Planning Department of the Municipality of Florianópolis. In order to define the sample, a sample calculation was performed

using the Sestatnet® website,¹² with a 95% confidence interval, which indicated the minimum sample of 362 people. The choice of HCs was intentional by selecting the two Centers in each Health District that had the highest number of visits to people with DM.

The inclusion criteria for the sample were: people diagnosed with DM for more than a year, registered and treated at a HC in Florianópolis/SC; men and women over the age of 18. People who did not reach the minimum score on the Mini-Mental State Exam cognitive assessment test were excluded from the study, considering the cut-off point as 23 points for people with schooling and 19 points for those without schooling. The application of the Mini-Mental State Exam was justified by the need for the participant to present an adequate cognitive level to answer the applied questionnaires.

Data collection was performed by the main researcher of the study and seven collectors who were previously trained in the application of standardized sociodemographic questionnaires (age, sex, marital status, education, religion, occupation and family income) and health conditions (time of diagnosis of the disease, presence of arterial hypertension, use of medications, presence of complications of the underlying disease), as well as Self-Care Adherence and Resilience scale. For the family income variable, the value of the minimum wage was R\$880.00, this variable was answered by 354 participants. The care during the collection was followed according to previous training, performing the interview in a private environment, reading aloud the items of the scales, which the participant received in a laminated copy to accompany the reading, being completed by the collector.

Upon first contact in the waiting room or in HC groups, people with DM were invited to participate in the study, they were clarified regarding the objectives and benefits, allowing the person to express their willingness to participate. The interview was carried out after approval or scheduled according to the participant's preference in relation to the location and time of the interview: at home or at the CS facilities.

Resilience was assessed using the Resilience Scale developed by Connor and Davidson (CD-RISC).¹³ Previous contact was made with the authors, who developed the validated version available to the Brazilian population, designated as: Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale for Brazil (RISC-Br).¹⁴ The instrument consists of 25 items, evaluated using a likert scale, with the following answer options: not at all true (zero); rarely true (one); sometimes true (two); often true (three), almost always true (four). Total scores can range from zero to 100 points, values close to 100 indicate better resilience. The scale was evaluated in relation to internal consistency, test/retest, convergent validity and discriminant validity and the structural factor, and has a satisfactory psychometric property, which distinguishes between people with greater and lesser resilience.

Self-care was assessed using the Questionnaire on Diabetes Self-Care Activities (QAD). The Brazilian version¹⁵ originated from the Summary of Diabetes Self-Care Activities Questionnaire (SDSCA),¹⁶ which was translated and cross-culturally adapted and had similar psychometric properties as the original instrument, ensuring validity and reliability to assess treatment adherence through the self-care levels in people with DM. The questionnaire has six dimensions: general diet (two items), specific diet (three items), physical activity (two items), blood glucose monitoring (two items), foot care (three items) and medication (three items), in addition to three items on smoking. The score of the answers ranges from zero to seven and corresponds to the behaviors related to the last seven days, where zero indicates the least desirable situation and seven the most desirable. In addition to these questions, the instrument has three items in relation to smoking. Higher scores indicate better performance of self-care activities.¹⁵

For this study, in relation to adherence to self-care practices, it was considered: desirable self-care behavior (7 days); moderate self-care behavior (6 to 5 days); and low self-care behavior (0 to 4 days). The specific diet domain presents the items: eating meat and sweets, with inverse values; thus, the categorization was also inverse for these items and changed as to the days of follow-up, considering thus: desirable self-care behavior (0 days); moderate self-care behavior (1 to 2 days); and low self-care behavior (3 to 7 days). For the physical activity domain, it was considered: desirable self-care behavior (7 to 4 days); moderate self-care behavior (3 to 2 days); and low self-care behavior (0 to 1 day).

Data analysis was performed in the Statistical Package for Social Science SPSS® version 20.0.17, descriptive, dispersion and central tendency analyzes of variables were performed, and the mean, standard deviation, maximum and minimum values were calculated. One-way ANOVA was used to compare more than two averages. Statistical significance was determined with a p value of <0.05.

All ethical principles determined by Resolution 466/12 of the National Health Council were respected by complying with the requirements of the Free and Informed Consent Form. The study was approved by the Municipal Administration.

RESULTS

The average age of the study participants was 62.4 (SD 11.5). The female gender prevailed (64%) and the majority declared being married (55.5%). Few participants never studied (6.6%), most had completed elementary school (56%), and at the time of the interview, most declared being retired or being a pensioner (62%), with a predominance of income between one to three minimum wages (37%). Arterial hypertension was declared by the majority (68%) and complications of the disease appeared in less than half of the participants (21%).

The aspects of care that showed a statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) were: following a healthy diet, following dietary guidelines, reduced intake of sweets and taking insulin injections as recommended. In these aspects, the average resilience score was higher in people with desirable self-care behaviors (Table 1).

The results obtained in the PAF items in relation to smoking were expressed in Table 2. Regarding smoking, most participants declared that they had never smoked.

Table 1 – Distribution and differences in mean resilience according to self-care reported by people with diabetes mellitus. Florianópolis, SC, Brazil, 2015 to 2016. (n=362).

Variable	n (%)	Mean resilience (SD)	P
General Diet			
Follow a healthy diet			
Desirable	157 (43.4)	82.4 (13.1)	0.015 *
Moderate	67 (18.5)	81.6 (14.8)	
Low	138 (38.1)	77.8 (14.3)	
Follow diet guidelines			0.039 *
Desirable	103 (28.5)	82.4 (13.3)	
Moderate	54 (14.9)	83.0 (13.5)	
Low	205 (56.6)	78.8 (14.3)	

Table 1 – Cont.

Variable	n (%)	Mean resilience (SD)	P
Specific Food			
Eat five or more servings of fruits and / or vegetables			0.056
Desirable	192 (53.0)	81.2 (13.7)	
Moderate	50 (13.8)	83.4 (11.9)	
Low	120 (33.1)	78.2 (15.1)	
Eating red meats and / or whole milk products			0.683
Desirable	249 (68.8)	80.8 (13.8)	
Moderate	59 (16.3)	80.3 (13.5)	
Low	54 (14.9)	79.0 (15.7)	
Eating sweets			0.034 *
Desirable	147 (40.6)	82.0 (13.0)	
Moderate	129 (35.6)	81.0 (13.0)	
Low	86 (23.8)	77.1 (16.6)	
Physical activity			
Perform physical activity - minimum 30 minutes			0.590
Desirable	112 (30.9)	81.3 (13.6)	
Moderate	62 (17.1)	81.3 (12.2)	
Low	188 (51.9)	79.7 (14.8)	
Perform specific physical exercise			0.145
Desirable	86 (23.8)	82.2 (13.3)	
Moderate	60 (16.6)	82.4 (11.8)	
Low	216 (59.7)	79.3 (14.8)	
Blood glucose monitoring			
Assess blood sugar (n=120)			0.633
Desirable	88 (73.3)	78.9 (14.4)	
Moderate	Zero (0)	-	
Low	32 (26.7)	80.30 (14.0)	
Assess blood sugar the recommended number of times (n=120)			0.422
Desirable	75 (62.5)	79.9 (14.3)	
Moderate	1 (0.8)	98.0	
Low	44 (36.7)	79.45 (14.3)	
Foot care			
Foot examination			0.171
Desirable	239 (66.0)	81.5 (13.4)	
Moderate	4 (1.1)	81.2 (11.95)	
Low	119 (32.9)	78.5 (15.1)	
Examine the inside of the shoes before putting them on			0.209
Desirable	210 (58.0)	81.5 (13.9)	
Moderate	6 (1.7)	84.0 (13.0)	
Low	146 (40.3)	78.9 (14.2)	

Table 1 – Cont.

Variable	n (%)	Mean resilience (SD)	P
Dry the interdigital spaces after washing feet			0.074
Desirable	303 (83.7)	81.2 (13.8)	
Moderate	2 (0.6)	85.5 (3.5)	
Low	57 (15.7)	76.7 (14.6)	
Medication			
Take medications as recommended (n=336)			0.172
Desirable	314 (86.7)	80.8 (13.53)	
Moderate	10 (2.8)	74.8 (17.3)	
Low	12 (3.6)	75.4 (19.5)	
Take insulin injections as recommended (n=120)			0.015 *
Desirable	113 (94.2)	80.1 (13.1)	
Moderate	3 (0.8)	73.0 (24.5)	
Low	4 (3.3)	60.0 (27.3)	
Take the indicated number of diabetes medication (n=302)			0.219
Desirable	281 (93.0)	81.2 (13.6)	
Moderate	10 (3.3)	74.8 (17.3)	
Low	11 (3.6)	76.6 (20.05)	

* ANOVA test, statistically significant value $p < 0.05$.

Table 2 – Smoking habits of the study participants according to the QAD. Florianópolis - SC, Brazil, 2015 to 2016.

PAF Domain - Smoking	Frequency	n (%)
Have you smoked in the last seven days?	No	327 (90.3)
	Yes	35 (9.7)
When did you last smoke?	Never smoked	206 (56.9)
	More than two years ago	112 (30.9)
	One to two years ago	10 (2.8)
	Four to twelve months ago	-
	One to three months ago	-
	Last month	4 (1.1)
	Today	30 (8.3)

DISCUSSION

The sociodemographic characteristics of the study participants are similar to other studies with people with DM, which also highlight the predominance of females, the elderly, married and retirees or pensioners, with low education levels.^{3,10,18-19} The high prevalence of hypertension was identified in the participants, corroborating with other studies.^{10,19} In the studied sample, only 21% reported complications related to DM, characterizing a small portion of people in the studied sample, different from what was pointed out in another study.¹⁹

The uniqueness of the association of the instruments applied in the sample of this study led us to compare our findings with studies that presented descriptive data about self-care due to the lack

of research that made associations between self-care (specified by items) and resilience in people with DM, as revealed in the present research.

Among the analyzed aspects of self-care, four of them showed statistically significant differences: follow a healthy diet; follow diet guidelines; consumption of sweets; and taking insulin injections as recommended.

Regarding the general diet domain, the two items that make up this domain were statistically significant with the mean resilience. Those participants with desirable self-care, in both items, had high resilience means. Following a healthy diet based on the guidelines recommended by health professionals contributes to the management of the disease and the achievement of ideal care practices, leading to greater autonomy, coping with the disease and self-efficacy, characteristics linked to the resilience construct in relation to the management of chronic disease.²⁰ Regarding the specific diet domain, only the consumption of sweets was significant with resilience, showing that people with desirable behaviors regarding the consumption of sweets were more resilient.

Proper follow-up of the diet plan is recommended by national²¹ and international guidelines,²² based on the choice of food quality, number of meals, control of the intake of foods rich in fats, as well as carbohydrates and milk derivatives. However, this aspect is closely influenced by cultural habits, often not followed properly, as seen in other studies that mention the difficulty that people with DM have in maintaining healthy eating habits.^{15,23} In this context, the study shows that promoting resilience in people with DM can be an important way to improve adherence to the diet, deemed as one of the most difficult aspects in controlling DM.²⁴

Regarding blood glucose monitoring, those with desirable self-care actions regarding the use of insulin had a high resilience means: in contrast, despite only being a few individuals, those with low self-care behavior had statistically significant low resilience means. Monitoring capillary blood glucose highlights blood glucose levels and allows autonomy, which in turn brings benefits, since it contributes to decision-making and disease control,²⁵ and its performance is recommended three times a day for individuals who use insulin and between two to four weekly tests for those who do not use it.²¹

Although few self-care items have been associated with the resilience of people with DM, we highlight its potential in promoting appropriate health behaviors²⁶, pointing out that the construct contributes to the management of chronic disease, from overcoming adversity and stressful situations arising from the condition.⁸

Studies on resilience in people with DM have shown a favorable association between resilience and treatment adherence, i.e., people with higher resilience scores had better treatment adherence^{11,27} and also, better quality of life.²⁸

The other domains of self-care were not statistically relevant, nevertheless, it is worth highlighting the findings regarding the frequency of the studied sample's behaviors. Regarding the use of medicines, desirable behaviors were found among most participants, corroborating with other studies that also point out that, in relation to care, the use of medicines tends to have better adherence among people with DM.^{15,23}

However, care consists of integrated practices that also involve other commitments for those with DM, such as performing regular physical activities. For this domain, we identified weaknesses in the sample studied, and most participants did not incorporate physical activity in their self-care actions, as recommended by international and national guidelines, which recommend the need for at least 150 minutes of weekly physical activities.²¹⁻²² Other authors also highlight the difficulty in adhering to physical activity practices in this population.^{4,19,28}

Regarding foot care, even though there are no statistical differences, those who follow desirable behaviors had higher resilience means. Regarding this dimension, it is worth mentioning that about 30 to 40% of the participants have undesirable behaviors related to foot examination and checking the

inside of the shoes before putting them on, as mentioned by other studies, highlighting the relevance of health education for the modification of these behaviors.^{19,24}

With regard to smoking, as found in other studies, the vast majority do not smoke.^{15,19,23,29}

In this study, only self-care was associated with resilience. This can be a limitation, due to the fact that resilience is a construct that encompasses the individual in their integral context. Considering this, the investigation was only limited to self-care and did not consider other biopsychosocial aspects inherent to the individual and that can influence resilience. Even so, we consider the relevance of these findings evidenced by the significant statistical differences. The scarcity of studies focusing on the relationship between resilience and self-care in the control of DM was a limitation for understanding the implications of the results obtained in the present study. Therefore, we suggest further studies that contemplate these variables as well as others that may be related to the capacity for self-care for future comparisons.

CONCLUSION

When investigating the relationship between resilience and self-care of people with DM attended in PHC, it is concluded that four domains showed a statistically significant association when compared to the mean resilience scores, with emphasis on: healthy eating and professional guidance; reduced intake of sweets; recommended frequency of blood glucose assessment. The results obtained point to the potential relationship between high resilience averages and adequate performance in diabetes care.

The promotion of resilience is relevant in the health care of people with DM, as it emerges as a possibility in the clinical practice of nurses, since it contributes to the management of chronic disease by allowing better coping with the disease, ensuring autonomy, confidence and competence to perform the care required and live harmoniously with a chronic health condition. We emphasize the need for studies that explore the association of resilience and self-care in people with DM along with other variables, such as stress, depression, anxiety, as well as the evaluation of strategies to promote resilience.

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NOTES

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There is no conflict of interest.

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