

Improved Self-Confidence in Cardiac Patients Subscribed to a New Medical Emergency System

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Introduction

Fear, anxiety, and loss of self-confidence (SC) are common problems that interfere with the daily life of cardiac patients. A medical facility that operates Mobile Intensive Care Units and receives and records cardiac rhythms through portable trans-telephonic electrocardiogram (ECG) transmitters carried by patients, has been established in Israel. Patient data, including ECG, are stored in a central computer and are available to the medical staff 24 hours a day.

Methods

A detailed questionnaire was sent to the subscribers to evaluate the impact of this service on their self-confidence. Interviews were held with a random group of patients who had not returned the completed questionnaire.

Results

A total of 1089 subscribers were included in the study - 1034 responded to the questionnaire and 55 were personally interviewed - with results as follows:

All values are expressed in percent.

NHD = No Heart Disease; RF = Risk Factors; AP = Angina Pectoris;

MI = Myocardial Infarction; OC = Other Cardiac disease. SC = Self Confidence

There was a significant association ($P < 0.05$) between improvement in sc and age whereas no difference in response was observed with respect to sex.

Conclusions

A. A significant improvement in SC of cardiac patients resulted from their association to the permanently available emergency facility ($p < 0.05$).

B. The degree of improvement in SC was related to the severity of the Heart disease ($p < 0.05$).