

Discussion on the Effectiveness of Promoting the Cooperation Model of Dementia Inter-professional Teams



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Background

The main caregiver of a dementia case must face the daily care of the case, mental symptoms, and behavioral problems during the care process, which is the most significant source of caregiving distress and mental breakdown. In February 2020, the home care of 41 primary caregivers of dementia cases was assessed by the Brief Symptom Rating Scale for their degree of care distress. The results showed that the rate of caring distress is as high as 78.1%. The main reasons are that the primary caregivers lack knowledge and have no one to give care and encouragement to. There is a lack of a single window for referral and integration of dementia-related resources.

Purpose and Methods

A dementia inter-professional teamwork model was established to improve the care problems of the main caregivers of dementia cases. The Brief Symptom Rating Scale was used to assess the degree of care distress for primary caregivers. A score of 6 or above was defined as care distress. Cases were assessed before and after the intervention. The improvement action plan was executed through teamwork. The key points of care for each stage of dementia and a health education manual for behavioral problems were produced and promoted the What Matters Scheme to allow the team to develop care plans based on individual needs. A single window for dementia individual managers was also added to assist in the referral of social resources and the establishment of LINE care groups.

Results

The caring distress rate of dementia patient primary caregivers dropped significantly from 78.1% before intervention (February 2020) to 31.7% (March 2021), and the correct rate of dementia care awareness increased from 61.2% to 93.1%. The unplanned hospitalization rate of dementia cases dropped from 7.3% to 2.4%.

Conclusions and Clinical Applications

Through the dementia inter-professional teamwork model, it is possible to effectively improve the care distress of the caregivers of dementia cases.