

Annotation

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This bachelor's degree thesis presents a personal view of selected patients living with multiple sclerosis. These selected patients permanently live at the Domov sv. Josefa in the village of Zirec. For the purpose of this study only the patients at the chronic progressive stage of the disease and who were willing to talk about their life and to describe the whole progress of the illness were selected. The patients were four men and one woman (ages 50 to 80).

The first theoretical part of the study describes the history of multiple sclerosis, etiology of the disease, diagnosis, progress of the illness and its treatment. It mentions institutions which help the patients cope with the disease, such as home care, social services and organizations that provide support to the patients. It talks about the concept of quality of life in general, quality of life relating to health and illness, and about contemporary research on quality of life of patients with multiple sclerosis.

The research part of the study applied multiple research methodologies. To assure quality, the patients were allowed to talk freely or the conversation was partially structured. The information obtained was then analyzed. To obtain quantity of information, the PTGI-CZ form was used to find out the post-traumatic development within individual patients.

This research produced answers to four questions related to: strategy of coping with the disease, conveying of diagnosis to the patient and obtaining information about the disease, treatment process and the impact of the disease on everyday life, and sources of support while coping with the disease. The results of the research show large differences between individual patients at the same stage of illness and thus confirm the results of previously conducted research.