

Abstract

This Rigorosum thesis focuses on psychosocial aspects of infertility and its treatment by assisted reproduction. The Rigorosum thesis modifies and extends the Diploma thesis “The impact of involuntary childlessness on partner relationship”.

The theoretical part deals with motivation for parenthood, the diagnosis of infertility and its treatment, psychosocial aspects of infertility treatment and the care of psychological needs of patients in centres of assisted reproduction; this part also analyses the experience of infertility and its social context, the influence of involuntary childlessness on relationship and coping strategies of partners, and it presents possible ways of psychological treatment for them.

The empirical part consists of two parts. The first part focuses on women with experience of involuntary childlessness – their emotions, relationship and its possible changes; the role of social environment, their view on parenthood, their experience with infertility treatment and with seeking psychological intervention.

The second part deals with nurses in centres of assisted reproduction and their view on the psychosocial aspects of infertility, on the difficulty of treatment with the methods of assisted reproduction and on the emotions of the patients during the treatment. Additional focus lies on evaluation of the care of the psychological needs of patients, the approach of the physicians to them and the education in this area.

The empirical part of this study was carried out by using qualitative methods of research, concretely speaking semi-structured interviews and verbal associations. The total number of 11 respondents participated in the first part of the research; in the second part, 14 respondents were involved. The results show psychologically demanding character of infertility and its treatment by methods of assisted reproduction; significant influence of infertility on relationships; the importance of the approach of the physicians to the patients and the care for their psychological needs during the treatment; and last but not least, the need for further education of physicians in this area.

The results of this study can be useful for all specialists working with infertile couples – that is to say, for psychologist, psychotherapists, as well as physicians.

Key words

infertility, involuntary childlessness, assisted reproduction, medical care, approach of physicians to patients, psychological needs, holistic approach, psychosocial aspects, relationship