

ANNOTATION

The present diploma thesis deals with the topic of communication support in patients with multiple sclerosis in the terminal stage of the disease. Since the number of institutions in the Czech republic which deal with this issue is extremely limited, the questions addressed in the thesis are more topical than ever. In the first part of the thesis, the author introduces to the reader the disease as such, with its clinical picture and pathologies, types, diagnostics, progress, and treatment. The aim of the thesis is to characterize the needs and forms of support for patients with respect to communication and in order to reach this aim the author conducted a survey in an institution in the form of an exploratory research. Answers to the research questions were sought in case studies of patients who were willing to participate in the research and who shared their life stories and provided insight into their intimate struggle to cope with the disease in the best way possible. Their goal was prosaically simple – to keep control over their lives and their human dignity for as long as possible.

KEYWORDS

multiple sclerosis, augmentative communication, alternative communication, technical aids, non-technical aids