

ABSTRACT

The theme of this graduate thesis is Alzheimer disease: care in the hands of family members. The thesis is divided into two main parts. The first part is on a theoretical base and the second part is practical. The theoretical part defines ageing, dementia and Alzheimer disease. The theoretical part establishes a framework that served as a basis for the practical part, which describes a care in family environment.

This theme was chosen because of the increase in the population with the disease. Is possible that medical facilities will not be able to handle that many patients, but children and grandchildren might be willing to take responsibility for their diseased parents and grandparents.

The object of the thesis is to describe the care of patients with Alzheimer's disease at home, including the possible pitfalls, which can experience family members in the role of lay caregivers.

The practical part describes a case-study of a patient - nursing process and the possibility of using the services of different organizations so that the patient can live as long as possible with his family.

The thesis will be able to serve as an auxiliary material for families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease at home and can also inform healthcare professionals in the relevant fields about the possibilities and needs of informal carers and patients themselves.

The main problems in the thesis were very demanding interviews with the patient and the compilation of nursing diagnoses. The interviews needed considerable preparation to ensure that the patient was not burdened, and it was possible to get valuable information.

keywords: Alzheimer disease, ageing, disorientation, home care, family environment, supporting informal carers