

TIME TO INVESTIGATE THE PATH OF CLINICAL REASONING IN CHRONIC AND MULTIMORBID CONDITIONS.

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BACKGROUND

According to Cook, management reasoning differs greatly from diagnostic reasoning (Cook et al, 2018), making it a more complex process. We intend to explore and shed some light on the different characteristics of this management reasoning.

SUMMARY OF WORK

A qualitative descriptive study was carried out with semi-structured interviews about their management reasoning and the challenges they encountered with expert primary care physicians working with multimorbid patients in an ambulatory setting. A total of 9 participants were part of this study. These 9 interviews were transcribed verbatim followed by an inductive and deductive data analysis.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A few themes emerged from the data, confirming and developing further the perspective of Cook and al. (2018).

- Patient's involvement • Interconnection of patient's problems and pathologies
- Maintaining the quality of life • Managing uncertainties • Integration of collaborative reasoning

These themes helped us to better understand and better define how these complex factors coincide and interact with one another, especially regarding the collaborative reasoning with patients, family and other healthcare professionals.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Our study contributes to a better understanding of clinical reasoning in the context of patients with multiple chronic conditions during their long-term follow-up care. This study would allow primary care physicians to be more conscious of the richness and quality of their own clinical reasoning processes used during multimorbidity management. These results open up the path to new research projects that will enable us to further explore clinical reasoning processes used by physicians in the context of multimorbidity, which might later support the teaching and supervision.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Primary care physicians are at the very heart of managing complex patients with multimorbid chronic conditions. This study enables us to think of clinical reasoning as a multi-faceted and longitudinal process.