The Influence of Endometriosis on Female Marital Life

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was, by investigating endometriosis patients' situations in marital life, to explore the female's psychological pressure in dealing with the disease, the impact of the couple's relationship, and thus the change in her marital life. From the patients' thoughts and feelings were analyzed via the social and cultural points of view, and the phenomenon and their relations during the evolutions of marital life were studied.

The study design was based upon grounded theory. Fifteen patients via theoretical sampling from Endometriosis Association Taiwan were interviewed to achieve the criterion of saturation. Every interview lasted for 40 to 60 minutes, recorded by tapes and notes for the vocal and non-vocal processes and contents. The results of data analysis were presented in three main categories, namely, (1) drawbacks in couple's relationship with subjects including dissatisfaction with sexual life, pressures from infertility, and negativity in communication; (2) decline in couple's interaction, with subjects including diversity in thoughts, coldness with distance, and conflict with crises; (3) unity in couple's life with subjects including helping each other in struggle, and seeking resources together.

This study provided the information between the individual and the marital life of the endometriosis patients in social construction. It also offered the clinical and community professional caregivers further understandings of the female patients' demands, so as to prevent marital crisis by using proper nursing care to assist patients coping with the endometriosis.

Key words: endometriosis, female disease, marital life, grounded theory