Parenting behaviors in self-management of children with type 1 diabetes

Chi-Wen Chang1,2, Shiaw-Ling Wang1, Yueh-Tao Chiang1,3, Hsing-Yi Yu1,2, Fu-Sung Lo1,3, Ya-Fen Wang1, Hui-Hsien Hsieh1 and Chi-Ming Chu8

1School of Nursing, Medicine of College, Chang Gung University, Taiwan; 2School of Nursing, Chung Shan Medical University, Taiwan; 3Division of Endocrinology, Department of Pediatrics, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan; 4Division of Cardiology, Department of Pediatrics, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan; 5Department of Ophthalmology, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan; 6College of Medicine, Chung Gung University, Taiwan; 7College of Nursing, Kent State University, USA; 8Section of Biostatistics and Informatics, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, National Defence Medical Center, Taiwan

Abstract: Self-management is one of the most important daily routines in the family of children with type 1 diabetes. Though, it involves not only the child, the mother’s role is even more complex and important. In the light of developmental needs of school-age children, studies on mothers’ parenting behaviors in self-management of diabetes are requiring. Since parenting is affected by social contexts, the main purpose of this study is to understand mothers’ parenting behaviors for children with type 1 diabetes in Taiwan.

In-depth interviews were conducted in a purposive sample of 10 mothers of school-age children with type 1 diabetes. The mothers aged from 33 to 49 and average year of diabetes of the children was 4.1 years. There were a total of 4 boys and 6 girls at the age of 7-12. The data were processed by content analysis. Seven parenting behaviors were found: “persuading children with affection and rationality,” “positive encouragement,” “creating new situations,” “exchanges,” “punishments,” “self-reflection,” and “instruction and demonstration.”

The research results would enhance the understanding of parenting behaviors in self-management of children with type 1 diabetes and also provide references for developing nursing intervention in caring the children with type 1 diabetes and their families.

Keywords: Type 1 diabetes, school-age children, self-management, parenting behaviour

Biography

Chi-Wen Chang is an assistant Professor at Department of Nursing, College of medicine, Chang Gung University, Taiwan (R.O.C.). Her research interests are in issues of children with type 1 DM. She has published more than 10 papers in well-known journals.