

Intercultural differences of motivation in patients with diabetes. A comparative study of motivation in patients with diabetes from Transylvania and USA

KINGA KÁLCZA-JÁNOSI¹

GEOFFREY C. WILLIAMS²

ISTVÁN SZAMOSKÖZI³

Abstract

The self-management of diabetes is one of the most complex challenges in the treatment of chronic diseases. The self-determination theory is an excellent model for understanding chronic disease management. This study proposes the exploration of possible intercultural differences of motivation towards treatment and their role in glycaemic control in patients with diabetes in Transylvania - Romania and the USA. The study sample consists of 1112 (N= 1112) patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, of whom 226 (n= 226) were patients of Hungarian ethnicity from Romania (Transylvania) and 886 patients from the USA (n= 886). The patients were asked to complete the Self-Determination Theory Questionnaire Packet for Diabetes (TSRQ -D, PCDS, HCCQ - D). Between the patients with diabetes from Transylvania and USA there was no significant difference in glycaemic control. Perceived competence was a significant negative predictor of glycaemic control in both samples, the results thus supporting statements theory SDT and we can say that culture had moderating power over the relationship between perceived competence and glycaemic control. Our results supported that the SDT model of health behavior provides a useful framework for understanding the medication adherence among patients with diabetes.

Keywords

diabetes, autonomy, competence, relatedness

1. Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Applied Psychology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Address for correspondence: 128 December 21, 1989 Boulevard, Cluj Napoca, Cluj;
Tel.: +40264-445206; E-mail address: kinga.kalcza-janos@ubbcluj.ro

2. University of Rochester, Departments of Medicine and of Clinical and Social Psychology, Rochester, NY. E-mail address: Geoffrey_Williams@urmc.rochester.edu

3. Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Applied Psychology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. E-mail: istvan.szamoskozi@ubbcluj.ro