



Life Experiences of Donors in Living Donor Liver Transplantation



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Objective:

This study aimed to investigate the lived experiences of living liver transplant donors (LLTD). A total of 8 donors, who had been in an intensive care unit post-op from donating partial livers and transferred to a step down unit, participated in this study in a medical center located in Southern Taiwan.

Methods:

This study was conducted with the phenomenological method. Data were collected through observations and interviews. The in-depth interview was used to collect data, with recording, was performed with purposive sampling and using. The researcher then transcribed the recorded contents verbatim and utilized the Colaizzi (1978) phenomenological analytical method.

Results:

The information collected was then inducted and systematically sorted of the life experiences of LLTD. Which is manifested in five themes: self constructed meanings of liver transplant behaviors, conflicts of their beliefs and choices, the adaptive processes of the operation, physical sensations after surgery, and the gains and losses of the physical donor body.

Conclusions:

Through this study, the researchers discovered the lived experiences and the process of the LLTDs. Not only does this study show the donors' personal in-depth and close experiences towards the processes of liver transplantation, the results of this study could provide insight of caring for donors' physical safety and their psychological comforts. Furthermore, this study could improve the quality of nursing care and provide holistic care of liver transplantation donor.