

Slide 2

Effective Counselling For Hypertension Control

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Slide 3

Determinants of Hypertension Complications Among Adult Hypertensive Patients in Medical Wards at Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi

		Hypertension Complication				
			Yes	No	P value	
	N	%	n (%)	n (%)		
Taking antihyperter	nsive medication	as prescribed				
Yes	71	88.8	28(39.4)	43 (60.6)	0.12	
No	9	11.3	6 (66.7)	3 (33.3)		
Advised by medical professional to change lifestyle						
Yes	29	36.3	16 (55.2)	13 (44.8)		
No	51	(63.8)	18 (35.3)	33 (64.7)		
Advised against sm	oking by medica	l professional				
Yes	24	30	12 (50)	12 (50)	0.374	
No	56	70	22 (39.3)	34 (60.7)		

The Evidence

 Nurse Counselling on lifestyle change – motivational interviewing style used.

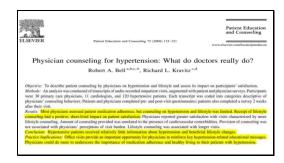
	Control (n=48)	Low (n=52)	High (n=56)	
Age	59	58	58	
Gender (M/F)	24/24	29/23	26/21	
Weight Change (kg)	0.05 (-0.8 to 0.9)	-1 (-2.2 to -0.1)	-1.7 (- 2.7 to - 0.6)	p<0.05
Alcohol intake (g/week)	- 12 (-57 to 32)	-164 (-274 to - 55)	-83 (-123 to - 42)	p<0.05
Sodium intake (mmol/24h)	4 (-15 to + 24)	- 38 (-59 to -17)	-21 (- 42 to -0.6)	p<0.05
Systolic BP	-4 (- 9 to 0.5)	-6 (-12 to -2)	-8 (-14 to -4)	p<0:05
Diastolic BP	+1 (-1 to 4)	-1 (-4 to 1.9)	-2 (- 5 to 0.04)	p<0.05

 The decrement in level of BP achieved in the intervention groups were of similar magnitude as adding an additional drug

Wolland J, Bellin L, Lond T et al. Controlled Trial of Nurse Counselling on Lifestyle change for Hypertensive treated in General Practice. Clinical and Experiment Sharmannians and Sharinians (1991) 27, 465. 465.

Slide 5

Slide 6



So what should they do?

- Adherence to treatment plans should be considered an ongoing process, as even adherent patients can stray with the passage of time.
- This responsibility need not fall on physicians alone; adjunctive counseling by pharmacists, nurses and other support teams can complement the physician's efforts

Slide 8

How to do it

- Motivation to change is elicited from the client, and not imposed from without.
- Confront Ambivalence
- · Adopt a counselling style .
- Remember that Resistance and 'denial' are not client traits, but are a feedback regarding your counsellor behaviour.
- Establish a the therapeutic relationship that is more like a partnership or companionship than expert/recipient roles.
- Other motivational approaches have emphasized coercion, persuasion, constructive confrontation. Such strategies may have their place in evoking change, but they are quite different in spirit from motivational interviewing which relies upon identifying and mobilizing the client's intrinsic values and goals to stimulate behaviour change.
- Ambivalence takes the form of a conflict between two courses of action (e.g., indulgence versus restraint), each of which has perceived benefits and costs associated with it.
- The specific strategies of motivational interviewing are designed to elicit, clarify, and resolve ambivalence in a clientcentred and respectful counselling atmosphere. More aggressive strategies, sometimes guided by a desire to 'confront client denial,' easily slip into pushing clients to make changes for which they are not ready, and therefore will not accommodate afterwards.

- Readiness to change is not a client trait, but a fluctuating product of interpersonal interaction.
- Client resistance is often a signal that the counsellor is assuming greater readiness to change than is the case, and it is a cue that the counsellor needs to modify motivational strategies.
- Eliciting and reinforcing the clients in their motivational behaviour towards problem recognition, concerns, desire, intention, responsibility and ability to change.
- The counsellor respects the client's autonomy and freedom of choice and consequences regarding his or her own behaviour.

