

Cultural diversity in heart failure management: Findings from the DISCOVER Study (Part 2)

Author/s: Davidson, P. M. Macdonald, P. Moser, D. K. Ang, E. Paull, G. Choucair, S. Daly, J. Gholizadeh, L. Dracup, K. | **Year:** 2007 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** General Care, Biomedical

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Key Words:

chronic heart failure, attitudes towards care, attitudes towards illness, family and kinship ties

Research aim:

Understanding the cultural experiences of individuals with chronic heart failure (CHF) in South East Health (DISCOVER) study is an exploratory, observational study investigating health patterns, information needs and the adjustment process for overseas-born people with HF living in Australia.

Results/Conclusion:

A key finding of this study is that culture provides an important context to aid interpretations Of attitudes, values, beliefs and behaviours, not only in illness but in health. While individual differences in attitudes and beliefs were observed among participants, common themes and issues were identified across cultural groups. Data from the DISCOVER study revealed the primacy of family and kinship ties. These relationships were important in making decisions about treatment choices and care plans. Participants also revealed the critical role of the 'family doctor' in assisting people and their families in brokering the health care system. In this study, heart disease was considered to be a significant condition but cancer was the condition that people both feared and dreaded the most, despite the high mortality rates of HF This sample reported that religious and traditional belief, became more important as people aged and considered their mortality. As HF is predominately a condition of ageing, the information derived from this study will assist clinicians to tailor health care service delivery for older people with HF, across multiple ethnic backgrounds.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Overseas born

Location of study:

Australia

Age group:

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Mixed methods

Type of data:

Mixed

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: