Abstract

Study of qualitative nature which aims at describing the life course of a family which has a demented elder, acknowledging how they care for this elder, for this elder at the household and identifying their expectations in relation to the subject. The gathering of information involved semi-structured interviews with family members of elders bearing Alzheimer’s disease. We concluded that the life course of the family, which possesses an elder bearing Alzheimer’s disease and the progressive evolution of the disease, which leads to a greater dependence of the elder for the performance of daily activities, imposes limits to the family dynamics, which suffers alterations to meet the demands of care which tend to be undertaken by a relative. Conversely, while taking care of this elder in a complete manner, with the support and guidance of the multiprofessional health team, such relative views possibilities of contributing for the improvement of elder’s health condition, when implementing procedures of care which provide comfort and security for the subject within the household environment.

Keywords

Nursing, Elder, Alzheimer's disease, Care, Family.