Abstract

Nowadays, Coronary Diseases (CDs) represent the main mortality cause in men and women, but there are gender differences regarding their presentation, progression and the way the disease is tackled. This study mainly focuses on reviewing literature about the CD and its gender approach. The authors carried out a search of texts that use qualitative methodology, published between 2003 and 2009 in the following databases: PUBMED, IME, CUIDEN and CINAHL. Factors that hinder the early diagnosis of Ischemic Heart Disease in women are identified as the main findings, and the possible consequences are pointed out. In the fifty-six texts that were selected initially, we can see the difficulty women face to recognize early symptoms of the CD and their low risk perception of this disease. Greater awareness on Ischemic Heart Disease is needed, so that the high morbidity and mortality rates can be reduced.

Keywords

Coronary Disease, Gender and Health, Myocardical Infarction, Qualitative Research