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Adhering to lifestyle change recommendations via the trans-theoretical model : a mixed-methods study among type 2 diabetes patients (Article)

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Abstract

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Purpose: This paper aims to identify and explore the factors affecting type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) patients' adherence to lifestyle change recommendations, with the guidance of the trans-theoretical model (stages of change). **Design/methodology/approach:** This study was conducted in two parts. In Part A, 163 randomly selected participants were asked to complete a cross-sectional survey. Data regarding demographics, stages of change and levels of confidence to engage in lifestyle changes were collected. In Part B, in-depth interviews were conducted among 30 individuals, aged between 30 and 65 years, had been diagnosed with T2DM and had seen dietitian at least once. **Purposive sampling** was used to recruit participants with different sociodemographic characteristics. **Findings:** Part A showed that most of the participants were in the pre-action group (60%), with a higher mean HbA1c (8.9%) as compared to the action group (40%) which had a mean HbA1c of 6.9%. Part B further revealed the pre-action group and action group identified four key themes concerning lifestyle changes adherence: stumbling block; self-care belief; knowledge implementation; and self-empowerment. **Practical implications:** Health-care providers should identify patients' stages of change before lifestyle changes implementation. **Originality/value:** This study highlighted that many factors might influence a T2DM patient's adherence to lifestyle change recommendations. Determining the stages of change and self-confidence of T2DM patients is needed to ascertain long-term adherence. © 2020, Emerald Publishing Limited.

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