Beyond the physical: Addressing the psychological impact of kidney failure

Maritza Horn

Renal Care Society of South Africa, National, South Africa. Q Kidney Care (Pty) Ltd, Centurion, South Africa. Ava 2nd Chance, Pretoria, South Africa

Abstract

The psychological effects of kidney failure are often overlooked, despite their significant impact on patients' mental and emotional well-being. To highlight the multifaceted emotional and mental challenges faced by individuals with kidney failure and advocate for a holistic approach that includes psychological support alongside physical treatment. This presentation explores the psychological journey of kidney failure patients, including stages of shock, fear, anxiety, and depression. It emphasizes the importance of support networks, such as family, friends, fellow patients, support groups, and counseling. Additionally, it discusses the role of medical advancements in improving patient outcomes and resilience. The presentation aims to inform healthcare professionals, caregivers, and policymakers about the critical need for integrated psychological care in the treatment of kidney failure.

Kidney failure not only imposes a physical toll but also brings significant emotional and mental challenges that are often overlooked. This presentation delves into the psychological journey of kidney failure patients, highlighting the stages of shock, fear, anxiety, and depression they experience. It underscores the vital role of support networks, including family, friends, fellow patients, support groups, and counseling, in helping patients cope. Furthermore, it discusses how medical advancements can enhance patient outcomes and resilience. By advocating for a holistic approach that addresses both the physical and psychological aspects of kidney failure, this presentation aims to inspire healthcare professionals, caregivers, and policymakers to provide comprehensive care that supports patients' overall well-being.