



Building Research Initiative Group: Chronic Illness Management and Adherence in Transplantation

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ITNS is in the planning phase of an International Multi-Center Adherence Study in collaboration with the Leuven-Basel Compliance Research Group under the leadership of Sabina De Geest, PhD, RN.

This study aims to address an important gap in the literature: gaining a better understanding of health care system and health care team related factors associated with non-adherence to the immunosuppressive regimen. Preliminary evidence shows that non-adherence rates differ among transplant centers (Weng et al., 2005), continents and countries (Denhaerynck et al., in press). We therefore plan to compare patients' non-adherence levels between transplant centers, countries and continents and explore possible factors and dynamics explaining potential adherence differences. A number of variables will be measured (i.e. adherence to immunosuppressive regimen, financial burden of drug regimen, level of chronic illness management experienced, socio-economic and clinical variables), primarily with self-report instruments.

Twenty North American and 20 European centers will be included, with the goal of 30-45 heart transplant patients per center.

If you and your transplant colleagues are interested to become part of this exciting study, please contact us. We are very much looking forward to hearing from you!!!

