# Communication with difficult patients

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#### Webinar program

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دانشگاه علوم پزشکی و خدمات بهداشتی درمانی تبریز



#### کنفرانس برقراری ارتباط موثر با بیماران عصبانی، شکاک و پرحرف

#### مدرسین: دکتر سعیده غفاری فر و دکتر فاطمه رنجبر 1400/3 /20

مدرس	شيوه ارائه	عنوان	ساعت
دکتر سعیده غفاری فر	سخنراني تعاملي	اصول وراهکارهای ارتباط با بیماران عصبانی	10-11:15
دكتر فاطمه رنجبر	سخنراني تعاملي	اصول و راهکارهای ارتباط با بیماران شکاک و پرحرف	11:15-12:45
مدرسين	پرسش و پاسخ		12:45-13

### Learning objectives

After this presentation, you will be

1. Difine a difficult patient

2. Differentiate different types of difficult patients

3. Criticize the role of different influential factors

4. Describe a plan for your general effective communications with difficult patients

#### Definition of difficult patients

A distressed patient, who is high utilizer of medical services because of some behavioral or emotional aspects



#### Different types of difficult patients

**Demanders Deniers** Manipulators Self-destroyers

#### Different demanding patients

Verbally rude Violent Aggressive Seeking secondary gain Boundary busting Exploitative of the doctor A pain in the neck

### Types of difficult patients (in descending order of relative frequency)



Violent, aggressive, verbally abusive

Unsolved repeated complaints

Multiple complaints-shopping list

Psychosomatic patients

Seeking secondary gain

Manipulative, lying

**Everything hurts** 

Pain in the neck

### Types of difficult patients (in descending order of relative frequency)

Demanding, boundary-bursting, exploiting the doctor



Angry at the doctor

**Unco-operative** 

Difficult psychiatric patient

Drug addict

#### Solutions?

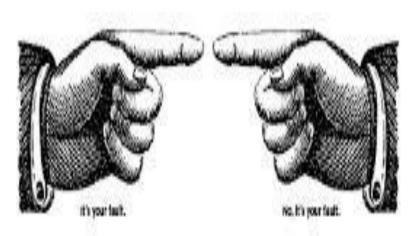


#### Difficult patients resolved..

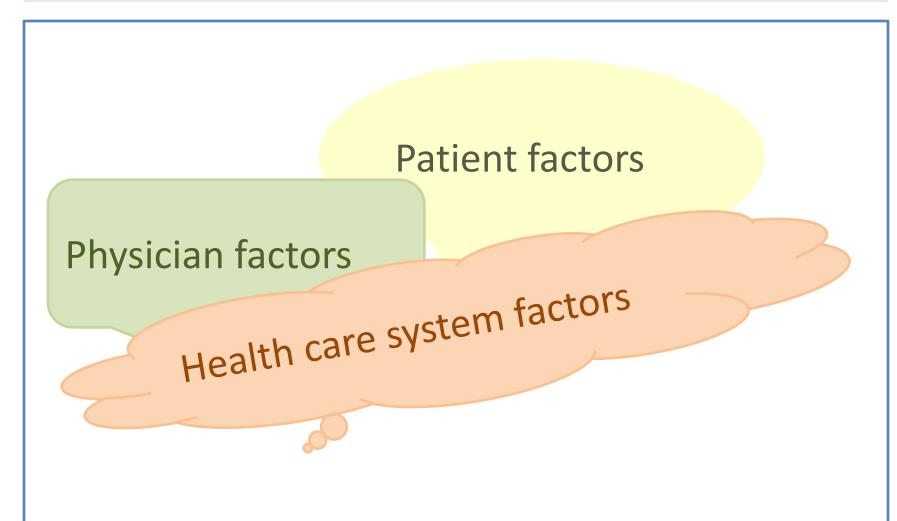


#### **Solutions**





#### Influential factors



#### Patient factors

Unrecognized psychiatric problems

Patients with anxiety disorders

Patients with mood disorders

Patients who feel rushed

Ignored patients

Patients with psychosomatic symptoms

#### Physician factors

Physician overwork and greater numbers of patients

Less experience

Mismatched work style

Personality and belief system

Cultural gaps

Poor self-management skills

#### Health care system factors

Increased patient mistrust

Continued pressures to decrease the cost of care and increase human productivity

Limited time to address patients' concerns

Conflicting expectations

#### Management tip

### Tactful assessment of the patient's distress:

"You seem quite upset. Could you help me understand what you are going through?"

## Means of coping with the difficult patient (in descending order of frequency)

**Empathy** 

Non-judgmental listening

Patience and tolerance

Direct approach

Defining limits of time and content in advance

Referral to various consultant, laboratory and simulate tests, alternative medicine, mental health services

## Means of coping with the difficult patient (in descending order of frequency)

Confrontation with the patient!

Recommendation for transfer to another doctor

Use of humor

Involving the patient's family

Sharing some of the doctor's personal experiences with the patient

Ignoring the patient's feelings!

### Communication techniques for health care providers

Improve non-judgmental listening and understanding

Improve tolerance and partnership with patients

Improve skills at expressing negative emotions

Increase empathy

Negotiate the process of care

#### References

- 1) Haas, L. J., Leiser, J., Magill, M. K., & Sanyer, O. N. (2005). Management of the difficult patient. *American family physician*, 72(10), 2063-2068.
- 2) Steinmetz, D., & Tabenkin, H. (2001). The 'difficult patient'as perceived by family physicians. *Family practice*, 18(5), 495-500.
- 3) Haralayya, D. (2016). Top 10 Ways to Improve the Communication Skills.
- غفاری فرس، غفرانی پورف، احمدی ف، خوش باطن م. مبانی برقراری ارتباط بیمار و (4 پنواری فرس، غفرانی پورف فی المحدی فی ال
- 5) Google images

### Summary

Definition of a difficult patient

Different types of difficult patients

Different influential factors

Means of coping with difficult patients



Really appreciate your attention.