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24 The Hemophilia Center has to become a point of reference that guarantees an adequate quality of life to patients and their families. Nowadays it guarantees adequate medical assistance in the emergency situation, but does not always offer the information and psychological support that is of utmost importance to people with hemophilia.

In a chronic and complex disease like hemophilia, taking care of the social and psychological well-being of patients and their relatives also means resolving problems that could influence all aspects of their lives.

Beside supplying reflections to the knowledge that health care professionals have already acquired, the training course aims at suggesting some guidelines for an adequate psychological support. The project title "Psychological Aspects of Hemophilia" emphasizes that the training course will be concentrated on information, formation, guideline support and psychological techniques aiming at offering help and

The psychological aspects of hemophilia

advice for the management of psychological difficulties that can arise following the diagnosis of hemophilia.

The course will be interactive and will involve discussion of real situations experienced by the attendees.

It will include consideration of case studies, sharing of clinical experiences and group debates.

The course will develop the following themes: concept of health/illness, effective communication, information and guidance, counselling techniques, listening, needs assessment.

If - through the course offered - health care professionals develop an adequate approach to the disease (considering its psychological and relational aspects), a change will occur in the technical and affective relations between them and the patients.

Such achievement will promote an effective management of the disease and a better attitude of the patient towards episodes of bleeding.

Moreover, this will promote the teaching of self-assistance to patients, even through auto-infusion.

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This educational activity will offer healthcare professionals help and advice for the management of psychological difficulties that can arise following the diagnosis of hemophilia

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