

People with Type 2 diabetes' Experiences of Foot Care

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Foot complications can pose a serious problem to people living with diabetes. Access to footcare and footcare education are vital in the prevention of foot lesions, particularly among those considered at-risk for foot complications. Little is known about how people living with type 2 diabetes in Switzerland access and use footcare services even though there are national guidelines for prevention of foot complications in primary care for people living with Type 2 diabetes.

A qualitative study was conducted to better understand the experience of adults with Type 2 diabetes accessing and using professional footcare services in the German part of Switzerland. The findings reveal that preventative footcare and footcare education are not integrated into the routine care and education of people living with Type 2 diabetes either at diagnosis, or during their follow up care. Adults living with Type 2 in Switzerland lack clarity about the various roles of healthcare professionals, consequently they often do not know who could provide supportive care to them, or how to navigate the healthcare system to access services in a timely manner. This presentation will illustrate challenges experienced by adults with Type 2 diabetes in Switzerland in relation to diabetes footcare.

Diabetes nurse since 2013 with a background in emergency care and health promotion.

Currently working in secondary care and since January 2021 additionally in a vast primary care practice, on self-employment basis.

A main interest is the implementation of diabetes self-management programs in primary care and the interdisciplinary collaboration within primary care.

Member of FEND and Swiss Diabetes Nursing Organisation.