

Teaching and learning self-management: findings from an ethnography of a lymphoedema summer camp

We examine the findings from qualitative ethnographic data collected during a three-day educational lymphedema camp on self-management for families with a child with lymphedema.

Observational and interview data were collected from parents and professionals. The emotional nature of the reported experience found in both parents and professionals became our analytic focus. Distress, doubt, fear, loneliness, guilt, and moralism were expressed for a range of reasons by both parents and professionals.

By making embodiment our analytic focus we took seriously the feelings that derive from the uncertainties, inconsistencies and tensions that result from the varied interpretations of self-management both within a family and between practitioners and families. Rather than identifying problems in self-management as an absence of readiness in individual families the findings from this paper point to the systemic problem of self-management becoming best practice where support and resources for *how* to achieve it in this complex population are absent.