The clarity, timing, and authority of the delivery of a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes had important meaning for patients


How do patients with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes perceive their diagnosis?

Many patients believed that hospital consultations were important for obtaining an accurate diagnosis and determining a management regimen. The waiting. Patients felt that delays were inevitable in getting hospital clinic appointments. However, some experienced waits of any duration as problematic, especially if they perceived diabetes to be a potentially serious condition requiring immediate medical attention. Many believed that clinic staff would “help to clear up a lot of anything that’s unknown.” Most patients waited several months for a hospital appointment and, in the interim, saw a dietician or nurse in a primary care setting. Sometimes, lengthy waits for hospital clinic appointments were perceived by patients as an indication that their condition was not serious, or even that they might not have diabetes.

CONCLUSION

The perceptions of patients with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes about their diagnosis focused not just on identifying and naming the disease, but also on the meaning related to the clarity, timing, and authority of the delivery of the diagnosis.

For correspondence: Dr J Lawton, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh Medical School, Edinburgh, UK. j.lawton@ed.ac.uk

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