
Postgraduate Certificate in Women's Health Coaching

Sleep and Stress Management

Sleep and Stress Management Key Terms and Vocabulary

Sleep Hygiene: Sleep hygiene refers to a set of practices and habits that promote healthy sleep. This includes having a regular sleep schedule, creating a comfortable sleep environment, avoiding stimulants like caffeine close to bedtime, and engaging in relaxation techniques before sleep.

Insomnia: Insomnia is a common sleep disorder characterized by difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep. It can lead to daytime fatigue, irritability, and difficulty concentrating.

Narcolepsy: Narcolepsy is a neurological disorder that affects the brain's ability to regulate sleep-wake cycles. People with narcolepsy may experience excessive daytime sleepiness, sudden loss of muscle tone (cataplexy), and vivid hallucinations when falling asleep or waking up.

Sleep Apnea: Sleep apnea is a sleep disorder characterized by pauses in breathing or shallow breathing during sleep. This can lead to poor sleep quality, daytime fatigue, and an increased risk of other health problems such as hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

Circadian Rhythm: The circadian rhythm is the body's internal clock that regulates the sleep-wake cycle. It is influenced by environmental cues such as light and darkness and plays a crucial role in determining when we feel alert and when we feel sleepy.

REM Sleep: REM (rapid eye movement) sleep is a stage of sleep characterized by rapid eye movements, vivid dreams, and muscle paralysis. It is believed to play a role in memory consolidation and emotional processing.

Non-REM Sleep: Non-REM (non-rapid eye movement) sleep is divided into three stages: N1, N2, and N3. These stages are characterized by different brain wave patterns and physiological changes, such as slow-wave sleep in N3, which is important for physical restoration and growth.

Sleep Debt: Sleep debt refers to the cumulative sleep loss that occurs when an individual does not get enough sleep over time. This can lead to daytime sleepiness, cognitive impairment, and an increased risk of accidents.

Stress: Stress is a physiological and psychological response to a perceived threat or challenge. It can be acute (short-term) or chronic (long-term) and can have a significant impact on physical and mental health if not managed effectively.

Stressor: A stressor is a specific event or situation that triggers the stress response. Common stressors

include work deadlines, relationship conflicts, financial problems, and major life changes.

Stress Response: The stress response, also known as the fight-or-flight response, is a complex physiological reaction that prepares the body to deal with a perceived threat. It involves the release of stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline, increased heart rate, and heightened alertness.

Stress Management: Stress management refers to a range of techniques and strategies that help individuals cope with and reduce stress. This can include relaxation techniques, mindfulness practices, exercise, and time management skills.

Resilience: Resilience is the ability to adapt and bounce back from adversity or stressful situations. It involves developing coping skills, social support networks, and a positive outlook on life.

Biofeedback: Biofeedback is a technique that helps individuals learn how to control physiological responses such as heart rate, muscle tension, and skin temperature. This can be used to reduce stress, improve sleep, and manage chronic pain.

Mindfulness: Mindfulness is a practice of being present and aware of the present moment without judgment. It can help reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being.

Progressive Muscle Relaxation: Progressive muscle relaxation is a technique that involves tensing and then relaxing different muscle groups in the body. This can help reduce muscle tension, promote relaxation, and improve sleep quality.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT): Cognitive behavioral therapy is a type of psychotherapy that focuses on changing negative thought patterns and behaviors. It is often used to treat insomnia, anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions.

Self-Care: Self-care refers to activities and practices that individuals engage in to maintain their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. This can include exercise, healthy eating, hobbies, relaxation techniques, and social connections.

Burnout: Burnout is a state of physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion caused by chronic stress. It is often associated with work-related stress and can lead to feelings of cynicism, detachment, and reduced effectiveness.

Compassion Fatigue: Compassion fatigue is a form of burnout that results from caring for others who are suffering or in distress. It can lead to emotional exhaustion, reduced empathy, and feelings of isolation.

Boundaries: Boundaries are limits that individuals set to protect their physical, emotional, and mental well-being. This can include saying no to additional responsibilities, taking breaks when needed, and communicating personal needs to others.

Gratitude: Gratitude is the practice of acknowledging and appreciating the positive aspects of life. It can help reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being.

Journaling: Journaling is a writing practice that involves recording thoughts, feelings, and experiences. It can be a helpful tool for processing emotions, gaining clarity, and setting goals.

Sleep Diary: A sleep diary is a tool used to track sleep patterns, habits, and quality over time. It can help identify factors that may be affecting sleep and guide interventions for improving sleep hygiene.

Relaxation Response: The relaxation response is the body's opposite physiological reaction to the stress response. It involves a state of deep relaxation, decreased heart rate, and reduced muscle tension.

Sleep Environment: The sleep environment refers to the physical conditions in which sleep occurs. This includes factors such as temperature, noise levels, lighting, and comfort of the mattress and bedding.

Sleep Restriction: Sleep restriction is a behavioral intervention for insomnia that involves limiting the time spent in bed to match the individual's actual sleep duration. This can help consolidate sleep and improve sleep efficiency.

Sleep Efficiency: Sleep efficiency is a measure of the percentage of time spent asleep while in bed. It is calculated by dividing total sleep time by total time in bed and multiplying by 100%.

Sleep Onset Latency: Sleep onset latency is the amount of time it takes to fall asleep after getting into bed. It is a common measure used to assess sleep quality and can be influenced by factors such as stress, caffeine intake, and sleep hygiene practices.

Sleep Quality: Sleep quality refers to the subjective experience of sleep, including factors such as depth, continuity, and refreshment upon waking. It is influenced by both physiological and psychological factors.

Sleep Debt: Sleep debt refers to the cumulative sleep loss that occurs when an individual does not get enough sleep over time. This can lead to daytime sleepiness, cognitive impairment, and an increased risk of accidents.

Sleep Inertia: Sleep inertia is the groggy feeling that occurs upon waking from deep sleep or naps. It can impair cognitive performance and alertness for a short period after waking.

Sleep Paralysis: Sleep paralysis is a temporary inability to move or speak that occurs when falling asleep or waking up. It is often accompanied by hallucinations and can be a frightening experience for some individuals.

Sleepwalking: Sleepwalking, also known as somnambulism, is a sleep disorder that involves performing complex behaviors while asleep. It can range from simple actions like sitting up in bed to more dangerous activities like cooking or driving.

Sleep Hygiene Practices: Sleep hygiene practices are habits and behaviors that promote healthy sleep. This can include maintaining a regular sleep schedule, creating a comfortable sleep environment, avoiding stimulants before bed, and engaging in relaxation techniques.

Sleep Disturbance: Sleep disturbance refers to any disruptions in the sleep-wake cycle that affect the quality or quantity of sleep. This can include difficulty falling asleep, waking frequently during the night, or waking up too early in the morning.

Stress Management Techniques: Stress management techniques are strategies and tools that help individuals cope with and reduce stress. This can include relaxation techniques, mindfulness practices, exercise, time management skills, and social support networks.

Stress Response: The stress response is a physiological and psychological reaction to a perceived threat or challenge. It involves the release of stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline, increased heart rate, and heightened alertness.

Stress Reduction: Stress reduction refers to the process of decreasing or eliminating stressors in order to promote relaxation, well-being, and overall health. This can involve changing lifestyle habits, seeking social support, and developing coping skills.

Stress Resilience: Stress resilience is the ability to adapt and bounce back from stressful situations. It involves developing coping skills, social support networks, and a positive outlook on life.

Stress Hormones: Stress hormones are chemicals released by the body in response to stress. These include cortisol and adrenaline, which help prepare the body to deal with a perceived threat.

Stress Management Plan: A stress management plan is a personalized strategy for coping with and reducing stress. It can include a combination of stress management techniques, lifestyle changes, and support systems.

Stress Reduction Techniques: Stress reduction techniques are activities and practices that help individuals relax, unwind, and reduce stress. This can include deep breathing exercises, progressive muscle relaxation, guided imagery, and mindfulness meditation.

Relaxation Techniques: Relaxation techniques are methods for inducing a state of relaxation and reducing stress. This can include deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, visualization, meditation, and yoga.

Exercise for Stress Management: Exercise is a powerful tool for managing stress and promoting overall well-being. Physical activity can help reduce stress hormones, improve mood, and increase energy levels.

Mindfulness Meditation: Mindfulness meditation is a practice of focusing on the present moment without judgment. It can help reduce stress, improve concentration, and enhance self-awareness.

Guided Imagery: Guided imagery is a relaxation technique that involves visualizing calming and peaceful scenes. This can help reduce stress, promote relaxation, and enhance mental clarity.

Deep Breathing: Deep breathing is a relaxation technique that involves taking slow, deep breaths to activate the body's relaxation response. It can help reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and promote a sense of calm.

Progressive Muscle Relaxation: Progressive muscle relaxation is a technique that involves tensing and then relaxing different muscle groups in the body. This can help reduce muscle tension, promote relaxation, and improve sleep quality.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT): Cognitive behavioral therapy is a type of psychotherapy that focuses on changing negative thought patterns and behaviors. It is often used to treat insomnia, anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions.

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