

Literacy and Its Relationship With Self-efficacy, Trust, and Participation in Medical Decision Making

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Objective: To examine the relationship between literacy and trust, self-efficacy, and participation in medical decision making in adults with diabetes. **Methods:** A cross-sectional survey and chart review was performed. Patients' literacy was categorized as *low* if measured \leq 6th grade level. **Results:** Two hundred sixty-eight patients participated; 53 had low literacy. No relationship was found between literacy and trust or self-efficacy. Patients with low

literacy had less desire to participate in medical decision making ($P < 0.001$) and less diabetes-related knowledge ($P < 0.001$). Literacy was not associated with diabetes outcomes. **Conclusions:** Low literacy is associated with less desire to participate in medical decision making, but not associated with trust or self-efficacy.

Keywords: literacy, diabetes, self-efficacy, trust, decision making

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