**Table 2.** List of themes and sub-themes in relation to compliance to ART

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Main theme | Sub-themes | Examples |
| Patient-related factors | *Psychological reactions* | “*I am afraid when taking my medicines in front of people, asking about that drug and can’t answer the question, or someone knows about that drug and be described as a shame”* (P2M35)  *"I am afraid to take my medicine in front of my friends, I hide this medicine in my closet and when my friends are visiting me, and I do not take my medicine"* (P14F36).  *“there is a girl hiding her medicine in a container of vitamin D because she fears that her parents know about her illness and they kill her”* (P3M36)  *“I'm taking my medications regularly, in order to control my infection and I do not pass it on to my wife, protecting my wife is my responsibility”* (P10M31).  *“as long as I have high self-confidence and I am accepting myself, I do not care about what the people say. This attitude helped me to adhere to my medicine”* (P7F38)  *“I believe that my health can deteriorate and get much worse if I don’t take my medication regularly, which is I believe is a mistake to do so”* P9M41  *“I am happy because I got infected. After this infection, I realized that my health is important, and I need to care about it. If I had been infected for a long time, I would become more interested in myself and my life changed for the better”* (P8M42) |
| *Family and friends* | *“my husband always reminds me to take my medicine which in fact helps me to adhere to my medications”* (P1F35)  *“my daughter is a significant source of support for myself and she always reminds me to take my medicines and carry on with my examinations and lab tests”* (P7F38)  *“I want to live longer to stay with my family. I try to overcome and control the situation so that nothing can impact my family*” (P7F38)  *“my commitment to medicine improves my health which in turn prevents the transmission of infection to my children”* (P13F25)  *“Although I didn’t tell my family about my illness, I told my close friends, they are the source of my psychological support and this helped me a lot when I have my friend beside me when he helped me to rise again and become stronger”* (P8M42) |
| *Routines & reminders* | *“I have a box of seven small cans that I fill weekly with my medication. I check these cans on daily basis to make sure that the can of the day is empty to verify that I took my medication on that day”* (P9M41)  “*I always relate my medication to my lunch meal. Whenever I have lunch, I remember to take my pill”* (P10M31) |
| Medication-related factors | *Adverse events* | “*If my medication leads to health problems such as rashes or spots on my body, I stop taking the medicine”* (P5M52)  *“I am sure that my medicine contains a sedative. When I take it I fall asleep and feel sleepy all day. This does not fit with my work so I stopped taking my medicine”* (P11M38) |
| *Medication benefits* | *“these pills improve the coexistence with infection and make me live longer. I have a big ambition and lots of goals that I want to accomplish in my life”* (P6F33)  *“I didn't and will not stop taking these pills. I believe that these medicines increase my coexistence with infection”* (P4M50) |
| *Inconvenience* | *“at first we were taking five pills per day; this was difficult to me. Even if I remembered to take my medicine, the idea of numerous pills per day made it inconvenient”* (P2M35)  *“At first it was difficult to take this medicine (ART) every day. I asked my parents how they are able to take their diabetes and hypertension medications on daily basis, but with time I used to it. I also hope that there will be to modify the medicine so that we can take it once a week”* (P9F41) |