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Table 1. Characteristics of studies

Study	Countries	Proxy role	Person condition	Number of dyads
Alshubaili 2007 [25]	Kuwait	Family carer	Multiple sclerosis	170
Awadalla 2005 [26]	Sudan	Family carer	Major affective disorder	120
			Neurosis	81
			Schizophrenia	99
Awadalla 2006 [27]	Sudan	Family carer	Type-2 Diabetes	240
Bahrani 2008 [28]	Australia	Family carer	Cancer	117
Chachamovich 2010 [30]	Brazil	Spouse (woman) [†]	Couple with infertility [†]	162
Herrman 2002 [31]	Australia	Case manager	Persisting psychotic disorders	173
Kim 2010 [32]	Republic of Korea	Family carer	Bipolar disorder	50
			Schizophrenia	81
Rabin 2009 [34]	Brazil	Partner of long term co-habitation	Breast cancer	73
Schmidt 2010 [35]	Brazil, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Turkey and UK	Various: primarily parents, paid carers and professionals	Mild learning disability	‡614

[†] For infertile couples in Chachamovich 2010 [30], both women and men were proxies for each other. After tossing a coin to select one pairing, we designated men as persons and women as proxies.

[‡] In Schmidt 2010 [35] some persons had two proxies, and these analyses were presented separately. Our analysis took the responses of proxy one only, as this data set was more complete (n=614 (proxy one) vs. n=257 (proxy two)).