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Validation of the nursing diagnosis, death anxiety



NANDA International 2012 Conference Abstract

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Session 5.2

Nursing Knowledge Track

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Question

The death anxiety is an understudied phenomena at informal caregivers/ family (Reimer 2007). It is natural that a terminal patient presents death anxiety when death is imminent, however their relatives can experience the same feeling. Adelbratt

and Strang(2000) have noticed that brain tumors patient's spouses also had concerns with existential questions and death anxiety. According to this authors these issues were often neglected by health professionals, which makes us think about the relevance of specific care to palliative patients and their families. We believe that caring for a relative with progressive dependency may trigger death anxiety specially during periods of worsening health condition, acute illness or hospitalization. The death anxiety diagnosis was included in NANDA Taxonomy in 1988 but the evidence level is low (2.1). The clinical validation of this diagnose has not been explored on family caregivers. These two aspects justify this study. The aim of this research is to make a content and clinical validation of death anxiety diagnosis on family caregivers of adults with progressive illness. Which is the clinic evidence of the death anxiety diagnosis on family caregivers of adults with progressive illness?

Results / Findings

This proposal refers to a research in progress.

Discussion / Conclusion

In the Conference we will present the results achieved so far.

Method

Transversal, descriptive and analytic study, using the Fehring(1987) and Hoskins(1989) models. It will be developed in three steps. First step:Content validation.The purpose is to identify the literature evidence about the concept and defining characteristics of death anxiety. We will do an integrative literature review (Pompeo,Rossi e Galvão 2009). Then will compare the findings in the literature with the concept,characteristics and related factors of NANDA. If necessary we will propose a diagnosis reformulation. Second step:Experts validation.We will validate with experts panel the diagnosis label, his Taxonomy position and the pertinence of defining characteristics. We will build a google form to collect the data from experts (Fehring e Galdeano, 2007 directives). Third step: Clinical validation. Determination the prevalence of death anxiety diagnosis on on family caregivers of adults with progressive illness and identify the frequency of defining characteristics in this subjects. The death anxiety diagnosis involves cognitive and affective responses. For the data collection we will use caregivers interview(Fehring 1987). We are going to use a random sample of family caregivers of patients hospitalized in a Portuguese hospital.

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