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Death depression among older adults: A concept analysis utilizing an evolutionary approach

The reality of death is of strong concern to humans. Managing issues associated with preparing for the inevitability of death may create a psychological quandary for aging individuals that can contribute to onset of death depression. The purpose was to clarify the death depression concept in older adults including relevant features, antecedents, and consequences to further nursing knowledge development. Utilizing Rodgers' evolutionary concept analysis approach, steps included concept determination and appropriate scope, collecting data to identify concept attributes, antecedents, and consequences, and to evaluate relevant and alternative concepts for further clarification. A search for articles relevant to death depression in older adults was conducted in databases including PubMed, Ovid, ProQuest, and CINAHL and Persian databases including SID and Magiran between 1995-2020. Fifty three papers met the inclusion criteria and final sampling. Findings were reviewed by two independent researchers familiar with the field. Death depression is characterized by cognitive, affective, and behavioral attributes. Antecedents of death depression are health concerns associated with aging such as life-limiting illness, loneliness and loss perceptions associated with social relationships, socio-cultural context, identity issues, and environmental changes. Attributes contain cognitive and affective attribute. Consequences include negative adjustment in later life and the potential for adaptation. Death depression in older adults may contribute to adverse mental health sequelae. Therefore, assessment for negative ruminative death cognitions in older adults may lead to interventions that prevent the onset of death depression. This study provides a foundation for further research, and contributes to the development of nursing knowledge via concept clarification

Keywords: Death, Depression, Concept Analysis, Rogers Approach, Older adults

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Biography

Ameneh Yaghoobzadeh has completed her PhD at the age of 29 years from Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. She is the faculty member of the Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, Iran. She has published more than 50 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an editorial board member of reputed.

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