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A Concept Analysis of Help-Seeking in Patients with Heart Failure

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The purpose of this concept analysis was to clarify the concept of "help-seeking in patients with heart failure" by reviewing the literature and examining its characteristics. Using PubMed, CINAHL, Ichushi-Web and CiNii as data sources, a search was conducted using the key words "heart failure" and the following words: "help seeking," "seeking help," "seek help," "care seeking," "seeking care," "seek care," "health seeking," "seeking health," "seek health," and "consulting." A total of 30 articles related to the help-seeking in patients with heart failure were selected, and a concept analysis was performed with reference to Rodgers's technique. The analysis classified eight antecedents, five consequences and six attributes: "recognizing the importance of symptoms," "recognizing the need for assistance," "dispelling the hesitation of receiving help," "selecting a source of assistance," "asking for help" and "evaluation for asking for help." Help-seeking in patients with heart failure was defined as follows: "The process by which symptomatic heart failure patients recognize the importance of their symptoms and need for help, select and ask for help while dispelling hesitation in receiving help, and evaluate for asaking for help." Help-seeking in patients with heart failure generally meant contacting or consulting a hospital. This was limited, suggesting the need for further research to understand the concept more comprehensively.

Biography

Katsuhito Asai is doctoral student of the Graduate School of Nursing at the Osaka Prefecture University. He is interested in research on self-care and decision-making support for heart failure patients. He has conducted research on illness perception, care-seeking behavior, and decision-making support for heart failure patients.

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