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Development and evaluation of a Korean dignified death measurement tool

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Purpose: The purpose of this methodological study was to develop and evaluate the Korean Dignified Death Measurement Tool (K-DDMT).

Methods: The K-DDMT was developed in 4 steps. The first step was to develop the conceptual framework through literature review. The second step was to develop the K-DDMT preliminary items; the third phase was to review the items by expert in the areas of hospice and palliative care. The final phase was to test the reliability and validity of preliminary K-DDMT. Participants to test K-DDMT were 160 patients who were admitted in Hospice and Palliative care unit in 3 University Hospitals and 1 general hospital. Analysis of validity and reliability included item analysis, exploratory factor analysis and criterion-related validities.

Results: The K-DDMT consisted of 14 items was composed of four factors: death that gives the family the last words (5 items), death after reconciliation and forgiveness (5 items), death after completing life affairs (3 items), and death after preparing their own dying places (1 item). K-DDMT used a 4-point Likert scale with the total score ranging from 14 points to 56 points. A higher score indicated a higher level of dignified death.

Conclusions: The K-DDMT which was short and relatively easy to use in evaluating the dignified death demonstrated initial validity and reliability. The K-DDMT may contribute to develop the nursing interventions for the people at the end of life.

Biography

Bok Yae Chung has completed PhD from Yonsei University Graduate School, and Postdoctoral studies from School of Medical Education, University of New South Wales, Australia. She was Dean of Nursing School, Kyungpook National University, President of Korean Hospice & Palliative Nurses Association, Executive Committee Member of EAFONS, President of Korean Association of National College of Nursing, and President of Korean Association of College of Nursing. She has published more than 100 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an editorial board member of repute.

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