

How Older Vietnamese Australian Women Manage their Medicines

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Reference:

Key Words:

Vietnamese, medication, culturally appropriate care, womens health

Research aim:

To explore different beliefs about, and practices using, medicines for older Vietnamese women

Results/Conclusion:

The findings show how the women's health literacy influenced their medication use and explain the cultural reasons behind their decision to vary medicine use from that prescribed by their western trained doctors. Concern that health professionals do not favour combining western with traditional medicines led some participants to manage their medicines without advice from their doctor.

Implications:

The findings support recommendations to reduce the likelihood of adverse medication outcomes by increasing health professionals' cultural competence, encouraging patients to work with their doctor and report all medications taken, and increasing funding for research into the effects of combining western with traditional medicines.

Cultural Group(s):

Vietnamese

Location of study:

New South Wales (Sydney)

Age group:

55-75

Number included in study:

20 interviews, 2 focus groups (10 participants in each)

Type of participants:

Older Vietnamese women who arrived in Australia between 1979 and 1994

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: