

Methods used in cross-cultural comparisons of psychological symptoms and their determinants

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Key Words:

cross-cultural measures, menopause, psychological symptoms, women's health

Research aim:

This paper is the second in a series of reviews of cross-cultural studies of menopausal symptoms. The goal of this review is to compare and contrast methods which have been previously utilized in Cross-Cultural Midlife Women's Health Studies with a view to (1) identifying the challenges in measurement across cultures in psychological symptoms and (2) suggesting a set of unified questions and tools that can be used in future research in this area. This review also aims to examine the determinants of psychological symptoms and how those determinants were measured.

Results/Conclusion:

This review concludes that mental morbidity does affect vasomotor symptom prevalence across cultures and therefore should be measured. Based on the review of these eight studies it is recommended that the following items be included when measuring psychological symptoms across cultures, feeling tense or nervous, sleeping difficulty, difficulty in concentrating, depressed and irritability along with the CESD Scale, and the Perceived Stress Scale.

Implications:

The measurement of these symptoms will provide an evidence based approach when forming any future menopause symptom list and allow for comparisons across studies.

Cultural Group(s):

Cross cultural comparison of measures

Location of study:

Age group:

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Mixed methods

Type of data:

Review

Secondary data sources used:

(AJMWHs), (DAMeS), (FMEG), (HWHS), (POAS), (SWAN), (WHIMNS), and the (WISHeS).

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Not primary research but compared measures of symptoms across countries/cultures to determine things that should be universally measured