Trajectories of Parental Bereavement Challenges and Parent Health Risks: A case-based mixed methods study

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Nancy Dias is a doctoral student and pursuing my PhD in Nursing. She is a native of India and have completed her basic education in Mumbai, India. Her previous work experience in nursing includes both experiences in the United States and internationally (India and Oman). She is certified Nurse Educator and have taught fundamentals of nursing, adult health, pediatric nursing, and pharmacology. Her area of research interests is on understanding parental grief after the loss of their child and focusses my research to understanding challenges bereaved parents face with a purpose to ultimately identify strategies that can improve bereaved parents’ health outcomes.

ABSTRACT

Problem: Parents who experience the loss of a child have higher morbidity and mortality rates.\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^6\) Higher morbidity is associated with health risk indicators (e.g. changes in weight, BP, smoking or drinking alcohol).\(^7\)-\(^9\) However, we have yet to understand the nuances of the challenges bereaved parents face and how challenges and health risk indicators are related. These insights can lay a foundation to develop bereavement programs that target bereaved parents’ challenges with the goal to improve parental health outcomes.

Question: What is the trajectory of parental bereavement challenges, work done to address the challenges, and health risk indicators during 6 months after the death of their child?

Overview: This study will use a multiple case-based, longitudinal mixed method convergent parallel (QUAL + QUAN) design.\(^10\) Eight to 10 cases will be recruited, with each case consisting of a parent, significant other and child characteristics (age, diagnosis).

Stakeholder: Patients will be recruited through the hospital Palliative Care program. The director of the program is a member of the dissertation committee and supportive of the study.

Design: Qualitative (Interviews: challenges and related work) and quantitative (Health Risk Indicators: BMI, Brief Symptom Inventory, and PROMIS: global, sleep, and social scales) data will be collected in a single phase and merged to examine convergence, or divergence between the two data types.\(^10\) Both data types will be collected at three time-points post death (6 weeks, 3, and 6 months). This study will use sequential mixed method\(^10\) and case analysis methods.\(^11\) Textual data will be analyzed using content analysis and descriptive statistics for the quantitative measures. Further, a joint matrix\(^10\) will be created for health risk indicators, challenges, and related work.\(^10\)

Questions:
1. How do I incorporate the data from the “significant other” in the trajectory analysis?
2. What is the best method to create a joint-matrix across cases?

References


No handouts provided for this session.

Notes: