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Are Five Frailty Compositions and Depressive Symptom Having Causal Relationship? Three-Wave Cross-Lagged Analysis

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School of Nursing, Peking Union Medical College Beijing, China, Beijing, China Purpose: Frailty and depressive symptoms are common comorbid conditions that have important impact on older adults. Few studies however have examined their causal relationship in elderly. This study aimed at identifying the developmental trajectory of the five frailty components and depressive symptoms in elderly, and also discovering the causal pathways between them of community elderly in the five year.

Methods: Data come from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS). The analysis was based on three waves of data collected at the time of 2011, 2013, and 2015. Frailty was measured using Fried's phenotype, which includes weakness, slowness, exhaustion, inactivity, and shrinking; the 10-item Center for Epidemiological Studies-Depression Scale (CES-D10) was used to assess depression. A structural equation modeling (SEM) approach was implemented in four hypothesized cross-lagged models (M1, M2, M3, and M4) to evaluate the bidirectional relationships among the main variables. All hypothesized models were tested, and their goodness-of-fit indexes were compared to identify the best fitting model.

Results: The M5 (final model, optimized M4) chosen to represent the data showed the best goodness-of-fit indexes ($\mathbf{x}^2(5)$ =0.519, p=0.991, RMSEA=0.000, and CFI=1) among all hypothesized models. The final sample comprised 5440 elderly (50.5% female). The results showed that, when all people are treated as a whole, only slowness and exhaustion have causal relationship with depressive symptom, while other compositions were not significantly correlated. In addition, there were also differences between male and female. Slowness, weakness and exhaustion have causal relationship with depressive symptom in female, while only weakness have causal relationship with depressive symptom in male.

Conclusion: The results of this study offer insight into the relationship between depression and five frailty components among older adults during the 5 years. Furthermore, the findings in the current study to be able to easier and faster to find people at risk, it have important clinical implications. In addition, physical frailty should receive more attention in mental health care planning for older persons as well as its interference with treatment.

Title:

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Keywords:

depressive symptom, five frailty compositions and old people

Abstract Summary:

Frailty and depressive symptoms are common comorbid conditions that have important impact on older adults. Few studies however have examined their causal relationship in elderly. This paper explores the causal relationship between the five frailty compositions and depressive symptom in a longitudinal study.

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