Clinical Validation of the Nursing Diagnosis Impaired Mood Regulation Among Individuals With Mood Disorders

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Purpose: Individuals with chronic illness, physical or mental, are known to experience problem with mood regulation which can be manifested in variety of ways. Nurses, as care providers, need to be equipped with adequate tool to recognize this disturbance among the various groups of clients. Thus, the aim of this study was to validate the defining characteristics of the nursing diagnosis Impaired Mood Regulation in an African context.

Methods: This descriptive study was conducted in two tertiary mental healthcare institutions in Nigeria, purposively selected based on offering specialized mental healthcare services and representing the northern and southern part of the country. Richard Fehring's Clinical Diagnostic Validity model was employed to develop an interviewer administered questionnaire. Data was collected from 87 individuals selected purposively having been diagnosed of mood disorder and receiving treatment from the institutions on inpatients or outpatients basis. Their scores on the scale were validated with other criteria and the influence of socio-demographic and illness related variable on participants' identification of the defining characteristics were determined using Analysis of Covariance. Significance level was 0.05.

Results: Five of the 27 defining characteristics presented for validation were rated major, five considered not characteristics and the rest minor characteristics of the diagnosis. A two way subject ANCOVA was significant for diagnosis alone, $F_{(2, 87)} = 7.41$, $p = .006$, (after eliminating the effect of age and gender of the participants) and when combined with duration of illness, $F_{(38, 87)} = 2.38$, $p = .036$. A positive but weak correlation was found between the defining characteristics scale and mood disorder questionnaire, $r_s(85) = .353$, $n = 87$, $p = 001$ with $R^2 = .102$, while a positive and strong correlation existed between the scale and Patient Health Questionnaire, $r_s(85) = .733$, $n = 87$, $p = 000$ with $R^2 = .565$.

Conclusion: The defining characteristics listed in NANDA-I nursing diagnoses manual were valid for the nursing diagnosis. However, there exist additional characteristics that would further enhance the applicability of the diagnosis as revealed in this study

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Title:

Keywords:
Clinical Validation, Defining Characteristics and Nursing Diagnosis

Abstract Summary:
The use of nursing process in promoting individualized client care has been documented. Accurate nursing diagnosis is important to facilitate this. Thus, this study focus on validation of one of the nursing diagnoses listed in NANDA-I, in an African context, to promote global use of the diagnosis.

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Author Summary: Adebiyi M. Olayinka is involve in clinical nursing practice for over two decades. Her curiosity for this work was born out of discovering the scarcity of nursing diagnoses specific to mental illness (some of the few available were strike out by NANDA-I for lack of evidence) especially mood related diagnoses. Thus her enthusiasm to work on nursing diagnoses related to the care of this group of client.

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Author Summary: Adenike Olaogun is an Associate Professor at the Department of Nursing Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria. She is instrumental to organizing the NANDA International- African Network in her country. She developed a team of researchers and facilitators that provide continuing education on the use of the Nursing Process and Standardized Nursing Care Plans in Nursing Practice. A recipient of research grants from John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, USAID and Dreyfus Foundation.