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Commentary

Adding Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research to Health Intervention Studies: Interacting With Differences

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to explain how to improve intervention designs, such as randomized controlled trials (RCTs), in health science research using a process philosophy and theory known as dialectical pluralism (DP). DP views reality as plural and uses dialectical, dialogical, and hermeneutical approaches to knowledge construction. Using DP and its “both/and” logic, and its attempt to produce new creative syntheses, researchers on heterogeneous teams can better dialogue with qualitative and mixed methods approaches, concepts, paradigms, methodologies, and methods to improve their intervention research studies. The concept of reflexivity is utilized but is expanded when it is a component of DP. Examples of strategies for identifying, inviting, and creating divergence and integrative strategies for producing strong mixed methods intervention studies are provided and illustrated using real-life examples.

Keywords: North America; North Americans; United States of America; epistemology; methodology; qualitative; research design

Mixed-Method Articles

An Effective Model for Prevention and Management of Type 2 Diabetes

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Abstract

We developed and tested a cost-effective model for health promotion capacity building among community health volunteers (CHVs) within culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Twenty multilingual CHVs, from CALD communities in Melbourne, underwent 3 days of education and training to deliver face-to-face education programs in their own language. Participants were instructed how to collect anthropometric data, make qualitative observations, and conduct diabetes knowledge questionnaires, before conducting mini education sessions with three members of their own community. Knowledge about diabetes

among CHVs increased. CHVs were able to collect anthropomorphic data and knowledge surveys from community participants with greater participation than from outreach programs. Evidence-based data collected by CHVs could be incorporated into health education and promotion programs run by CHVs. Here we confirm that CHVs represent an effective tool for health promotion within CALD communities and have the capacity to incorporate evidence-based collection as part of their health education.

Keywords: CALD; Diabetes; community health; community health volunteers; health promotion; multilingual

Adaptation of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire for Remote Aboriginal Australia

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Abstract

A key challenge to providing quality developmental care in remote Aboriginal primary health care (PHC) centers has been the absence of culturally appropriate developmental screening instruments. This study focused on the cross-cultural adaptation of the Ages and Stages Questionnaires, 3rd edition (ASQ-3), with careful attention to language and culture. We aimed to adapt the ASQ-3 for use with remote dwelling Australian Aboriginal children, and to investigate the cultural appropriateness and feasibility of the adapted ASQ-3 for use in this context. We undertook a qualitative study in two remote Australian Aboriginal communities, using a six-step collaborative adaptation process. Aboriginal Health Workers (AHWs) were trained to use the adapted ASQ-3, and follow-up interviews examined participants' views of the cultural acceptability and usefulness of the adapted instrument. The adapted ASQ-3 was found to have high face validity and to be culturally acceptable and relevant to parents, AHWs, and early childhood development experts.

Keywords: Aboriginal people, Australia; children, growth and development; community and public health; disability, developmental; health care screening; instrument development

Developing the DESCARTE Model: The Design of Case Study Research in Health Care

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Abstract

The purpose of this article was to iteratively account for and discuss the handling of methodological challenges in two qualitative research syntheses concerning patients' experiences of hospital transition. We applied Sandelowski and Barroso's guidelines for synthesizing qualitative research, and to our knowledge, this is the first time researchers discuss their methodological steps. In the process, we identified a need for prolonged discussions to determine mutual understandings of the methodology. We discussed how to identify the appropriate qualitative research literature and how to best conduct exhaustive literature searches on our target phenomena. Another finding concerned our status as third-order interpreters of participants' experiences and what this meant for synthesizing the primary findings. Finally, we discussed whether our studies could be classified as metasummaries or metasyntheses. Although we have some concerns regarding the applicability of the methodology, we conclude that following Sandelowski and Barroso's guidelines contributed to valid syntheses of our studies.

Keywords: case studies; health care; methodology; mixed-methods; qualitative; research design

Essential Qualitative Inquiry in the Development of a Cancer Literacy Measure for Immigrant Women

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Abstract

In this article, we describe the development of a comprehensive measure of breast and cervical cancer literacy for immigrant populations. To our knowledge, this is the first attempt to use a health literacy framework in this endeavor. Using qualitative strategies, we (a) developed an understanding of the experiences of Mexican and Filipina immigrant women with low health literacy through individual interviews, (b) conducted focus groups to obtain feedback from experts and participants to determine the adequacy of items included in the

measure, and (c) refined the set of items to create an empirically based measure. The final measure included 129 items that assess beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, emotions, and contextual factors related to breast and cervical cancer. Processes for adapting the measure for use with other immigrant groups are discussed.

Keywords: Filipino Americans; Mexican Americans; breast cancer; focus groups; health determinants; health disparities; individual interviews

Keynote

Doing Interdisciplinary Mixed Methods Health Care Research: Working the Boundaries, Tensions, and Synergistic Potential of Team-Based Research

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Abstract

Current trends in health care research point to a shift from disciplinary models to interdisciplinary team-based mixed methods inquiry designs. This keynote address discusses the problems and prospects of creating vibrant mixed methods health care interdisciplinary research teams that can harness their potential synergy that holds the promise of addressing complex health care issues. We examine the range of factors and issues these types of research teams need to consider to facilitate efficient interdisciplinary mixed methods team-based research. It is argued that concepts such as disciplinary comfort zones, a lack of attention to team dynamics, and low levels of reflexivity among interdisciplinary team members can inhibit the effectiveness of a research team. This keynote suggests a set of effective strategies to address the issues that emanate from the new field of research inquiry known as team science as well as lessons learned from tapping into research on organizational dynamics.

Keywords: empowerment; health care; interprofessional; methodology; power; qualitative; teamwork

Mixed-Method Articles

Huwa Rog, Parhej, and Desi Dawai: Women's Perceptions of Postpartum Maternal Morbidity and Care in Rajasthan, India

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Abstract

Although more maternal deaths occur in the postpartum period, this period receives far less attention from the program managers. To understand how the women and their families perceive postpartum health problems, the culturally derived restrictions, and precautions controlling diets and behavior patterns, we conducted a mixed-method study in Rajasthan, India. The study methods included free listing of maternal morbidity conditions, interviews with 81 recently delivered women, case interviews with eight cases of huwa rog (postpartum illness), and interviews with nine key informants. The study showed that huwa rog refers to a broad category of serious postpartum illness, thought to affect women a few weeks to several months after delivery. Prevention of the illness involves a system of precautions referred to as parhej, which includes a distinctive set of “medicinal dietary items” referred to as desi dawai, or “country medicine,” and restrictions about mobility and work patterns of a postpartum woman. This cultural framework around the concept of huwa rog and peoples’ beliefs about it are of central importance for planning postpartum health interventions, including place of contact and communication messages.

Keywords: India; Mixed methods; Rajasthan; dietary restrictions; explanatory model; late maternal deaths; maternal morbidity; postpartum period; postpartum restrictions; qualitative

Developing a Personal and Social Identity with Type 1 Diabetes During Adolescence: A Hypothesis Generative Study

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Abstract

This study explored the incorporation of type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) into self-identity among adolescents. Guided interviews explored 40 adolescents' views of T1DM in relation to their sense of self and relationships with others. Responses were analyzed using thematic

analysis. Results revealed that the entire sample described T1DM as a significant burden; many described how T1DM made them feel less "normal." Adolescents described both positive and negative aspects of self-management in social relationships, though most reported benefits in sharing T1DM with friends. Females were more likely to share information about T1DM and to describe positive changes in self-perception as a result of T1DM. The psychosocial processes related to integration of T1DM into self-identity described in these qualitative data provide hypothesis-generating findings that can guide future quantitative research examining incorporation of T1DM into adolescent self-identity in relation to measures of self-esteem, peer orientation, self-management, and glycemic control.

Keywords: USA; adolescents; diabetes; lived experience, health; qualitative; self; stigma; thematic analysis; young adults; youth

General Articles

Severe Obesity and the Ambivalence of Attending Physical Activity: Exploring Lived Experiences

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Abstract

Physical activity is considered fundamental in lifestyle interventions. We explore experiences of physical activity prior to, during, and following a 10- to 14-week inpatient lifestyle modification program, including high volume of physical activity, for the treatment of severe obesity. Eight participants from a prospective clinical trial were selected to participate in a complementary qualitative study. The participants' experiences with physical activity during and following the treatment program represented different opposites: "pain and pleasure," "desire and duty," and "bubble and battle." We summarized the findings into one overall theme: "the ambivalence of attending physical activity." The ambivalence is experienced as a shift in how participants experience physical activity during the intervention period and as an ongoing, dynamic, and constantly shifting experience during such activity. To address and reflect upon such experiences with the participants, and acknowledge ambivalence as a legitimate part of being physically active, might be important within obesity treatment.

Keywords: exercise; health; lived experience; obesity; overweight; qualitative

Subjective Experience and Resources for Coping with Stigma in People with a Diagnosis of Schizophrenia: An Intersectional Approach

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Abstract

In this study, we investigate the subjective experience of a group of individuals, diagnosed with schizophrenia, undergoing outpatient treatment in four psychiatric clinics in Mexico City. Our objective is to use the paradigm of intersectionality to explore the most common forms of stigma and discrimination faced by people with this illness, as well as the coping resources they employ. The major contribution of this study is its use of in-depth interviews and thematic analysis of the information obtained to identify the importance of sociocultural aspects of participants' experience of their illness. Schizophrenia, for them, was a problem of "nerves," whose origins were linked to magical or religious elements they attributed to their illness and which influenced their response to it. This resignification was useful to participants as a coping resource; it helped them find meaning and significance in their experience of the illness.

Keywords: Mexico; Schizophrenia; coping resources for stigma; intersectional approach; stigma and discrimination

Nursing Home Stakeholder Views of Resident Involvement in Medical Care Decisions

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Abstract

Demand by nursing home residents for involvement in their medical care, or, patient-centered care, is expected to increase as baby boomers begin seeking long-term care for their chronic illnesses. To explore the needs in meeting this proposed demand, we used a qualitative descriptive method with content analysis to obtain the joint perspective of key stakeholders on the current state of person-centered medical care in the nursing home. We interviewed 31 nursing home stakeholders: 5 residents, 7 family members, 8 advanced practice registered nurses, 5 physicians, and 6 administrators. Our findings revealed constraints placed by the long-term care system limited medical involvement opportunities and created conflicting goals for patient-centered medical care. Resident participation in medical care was perceived as low,

but important. The creation of supportive educational programs for all stakeholders to facilitate a common goal for nursing home admission and to provide assistance through the long-term care system was encouraged.

Keywords: decision making; health care, long-term; health care, users' experiences; holistic care; illness and disease, chronic; research, qualitative