

Body Image of HIV/AIDS Patients

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Abstract. In the present study, we performed a concept analysis of the ‘body image of HIV/AIDS Patients’. The antecedents of the body image of HIV/AIDS patients were “HIV infection & AIDS diagnosis” and “previous body perception”. The attribute of the body image of HIV/AIDS patients was “HIV related stigma” whereas the consequences of the body image of HIV/AIDS patients were “negative health outcomes” and, “lower quality of life”. In conclusion, the body image of HIV/AIDS patients is a key concept in the care of HIV/AIDS patients.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS patients, Body Image, Concept Analysis

1 Introduction

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is transmitted primarily via unprotected sexual intercourse, contaminated blood transfusions, hypodermic needles, and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a sexually transmitted disease caused by an HIV infection that weakens the immune system by attacking immune cells, thus increasing the likelihood of the patient to acquire infections, including various kinds of opportunistic infections, and may eventually lead to death.

During the initial infection, a person may experience a brief period of influenza-like illness, which is typically followed by a prolonged period without any symptoms. As the illness progresses, it increasingly impacts the immune system, and consequently increases the likelihood of the person to acquire infections, including opportunistic infections and tumors that do not usually affect people who have a normal immune system [1].

In the early 1980s, HIV/AIDS was recognized as a symbol of death. However, with medical advances and the development of new classes of potent antiviral agents,

HIV/AIDS has not become a chronic disease instead of a deadly disease. Furthermore, considering that the life expectancy of HIV/AIDS patients has increased to > 40 years, it is now recognized as a chronic disease [2].

The incidence rate of, HIV/AIDS in Korea (0.03%) is low [3]. Hence, most people feel apathy towards HIV/AIDS patients without considering it a serious problem, and even if they recognize this as a serious problem, they believe it is an irrelevant issue and are severely prejudiced regarding HIV/AIDS patients [4].

Hence, HIV/AIDS patients fail to maintain a social life.

Due to false cognition, HIV/AIDS patients have a negative body image. Therefore, the body image of AIDS patients before and after diagnosis is different. As a result of his own body, watching as his two other people to look at their body is known to be afraid of AIDS patients, and to those physical appearance Image is important, and will have their own body dissatisfaction.

Moreover, individuals receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) experience new challenges, such as metabolic changes and morphological body changes, which may affect their self-perceived body image.

The changes in body shape and composition that are associated with lipodystrophy can impact body image. HIV patients with HAART-related lipodystrophy are significantly more likely report issues with body image as compared to HIV patients without HAART-related lipodystrophy [5]. Furthermore, self-perceived lipodystrophy is a significant predictor of poor body image, distress, and non-adherence [6]

In order to enhance the quality of care provided to HIV/AIDS patients, we aimed to understand the similarities and differences between similar concepts and meanings of ambiguous concepts of body image of HIV/AIDS patients. We sought to clarify these conceptual properties in the present study.

In this study, we identify the properties of the body image of HIV/AIDS patients using an evolutionary method of Rogers, and was attempting to help a clear understanding.

2 Method

2.1. Study Design

In the present stud, we aimed to clarify the attributes of body image of HIV/AIDS patients and provide a theoretical basis. This study was conducted using Rodger`s conceptual analysis process.

2.2. Sampling and Data Collection

Samples were selected from Korean and English language literature published in the respective fields of all aspects without any fixed period.

We searched the PubMed, and the National Library of K-eArticle (search engine of domestic and international electronic journals and scholarly database) databases using the terms ‘body image’ and ‘HIV/AIDS’ or ‘Body’ and ‘HIV/AIDS’. The articles were limited to the Korean and English language and all had abstract (total 286 articles). The duplicate articles (40articles) and articles that were not related to the topic (143 articles) were deleted. In total, 103 articles were used to determine or clarify the concept of body image of HIV/AIDS patients.

2.3 Ethical Consideration

A literature review was performed using the PubMed, National Library of K-eArticle (search engine of domestic and international electronic journals and scholarly database) databases.

2.4. Data Analysis

In total, 103 articles were examined to determine or clarify the concept of body image of HIV/ AIDS patients.

3 Results

3.1 The meaning of body image in the literature

1) Dictionary definitions and etymological underpinnings

In the dictionary, the definition of body image only concerns the individual's perception of one's own body image. The literature on body image states 'obtained by the sense in the mind played a phenomenon as', whereas in, psychology, body image is considered as 'previous experience is one that appears on the visual in my mind as'.

2) Concept of body image

To our knowledge, no research has been performed on the body image of people HIV/AIDS patients. In the psychological and psychoanalytic fields, body image has been defined by many scholars.

First, body image is seen as an important part of self- image.

The most primitive form of ego is physical ego, and this ego influences body perception and the concept of body image, including the feelings associated with that body image, as discussed by Freud.

Second, a dynamic concept of body image (the change of life-cycle) has been proposed [7]. Third, body image is also determined by interpersonal relationships and the relationship with the environment [7]. Fourth, body image is a way to maintain stability and adaption [7].

3) Definitions of body image in the literature

The dictionary defines body image as that which is acquired by the senses, and as a phenomenon that appears in the mind and is interpreted.

The concept of body image is complex and encompasses an individual's perception of their existential self, physical self and social interpretation of their body by others [8].

3.2 Surrogate terms / related concepts

Various terms has been used interchangeably to express the concept of body image.

Some of these terms were actually found to express related concepts, and also serve as surrogate terms for body image. This was determined based on an analysis that revealed that there were occasionally subtle differences in expressions and some authors provided more precise definitions of alternate terms. For example, self- image has had various interpretations, including a feeling that an individual has about their skills and value, judgment, attitude, emotions, including with as a concept, self- concept, self -perception, self- assessment, and self- worth.

3.3 The concept of attributes

We observed that the attribute of body image of HIV/AIDS patients is “HIV related stigma”.

The dictionary defines stigma as the shame or disgrace attached to something regarded as socially unacceptable. In such a situation, there may be a feeling of ‘us and them’. People who are stigmatized are marked out as being different and are blamed for that difference (AIDSmap internet data).

HIV patients reported feeling “unclean” and “contaminated”, and the act of taking ART medications is a daily reminder of the viral infection they possess. HIV/AIDS has a significant impact on the feeling of body contamination [9].

AIDS-related stigma and discrimination refers to prejudice, negative attitudes, abuse, and maltreatment directed at HIV/AIDS patients

3.4 The concept of antecedents and Consequences

Antecedent events occurring before there the concept means. The antecedents of body image of HIV/AIDS patients include “HIV infection & AIDS diagnosis” and “Existing body perception”. Whereas the consequences of body image of HIV/AIDS patients include “negative health outcomes” and, “lower quality of life”.

3.5 Definition of the concept

The body image of HIV/AIDS patients is found to be determined by negative health outcomes and decreased quality of life through HIV- related stigma after acquiring an HIV infection and being diagnosed with AIDS.

4 Discussion and Conclusion

There are several factors that impact the body image of HIV/AIDS patients. several factors. Body image varies depending on gender, gender identity, and medical factors associated with the disease symptoms, based on the presence or absence of side effects of drugs, which may differ according to the country (including environmental factors) and, ethical and cultural factors

HIV/AIDS is no longer an incurable disease due to the rapid development of anti-viral drugs, but is instead a chronic disease. Hence, nurses should assess the body image of HIV/AIDS patients.

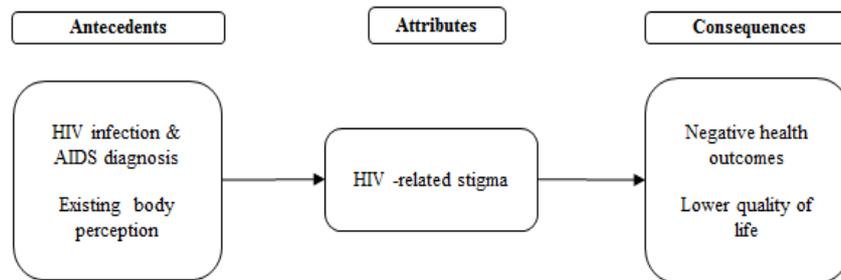


Fig. 1. Attribute, antecedents, and consequences of the body image of HIV/AIDS patients.

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