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Challenges in Frailty identification

Lack of specialized education and standardized tools to assess frailty in surgical patients.

Perianesthesia Nurses' Perspectives Managing Frailty: A Qualitative Study

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INTRODUCTION

- By 2027, the US Census Bureau estimates 77 million adults older than 60, comprising 23.3% of the population.
- Over 50% of surgical patients are older than 65 years of age.
- Frailty, linked to cognitive and physical decline, elevates surgical risks and costs.
- While frailty is commonly associated with advanced age, evidence suggests it can manifest in adults as young as their 50s.
- Preoperative frailty assessment is crucial, yet underutilized.

OBJECTIVES

- The intent of this study was to describe the perceptions, experiences, and barriers to utilizing frailty screening for surgical patients by perianesthesia nursing staff.
- **Aim 1**: Explore perianesthesia nurses' perceptions, specifically their attitudes and beliefs towards frailty.
- **Aim 2**: Identify perceived barriers to utilizing frailty screening by perianesthesia nurses.
- **Aim 3**: Identify knowledge gaps and training needs of perianesthesia nurses on frailty assessment and management.
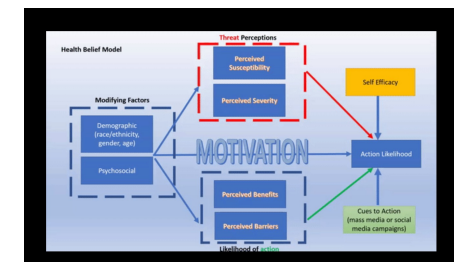
METHODS

- 26 perianesthesia nurses from 17 states.
- Semi-structured individual interviews via Zoom.
- Integrative approach combining inductive and deductive methods to identify patterns and themes

RESULTS

Three themes:

- Challenges in frailty identification – issues such as lack of specialized education and standardized tools for assessing frailty in surgical patients
- Frailty and its ripple effects – physical characteristics of frailty (reduced mobility and muscle weakness) impact of anesthesia on older adults (prolonged recovery times and susceptibility to postoperative complications).
- Optimizing frailty assessment and management – need to develop frailty assessment tailored for perianesthesia practice.

Health Belief Model (HBM)

REFERENCES

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DISCLOSURES/FUNDING