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Quality of life in elderly age: areas of concern 14278

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Abstract

The quality of life in elderly age has special features, depending primarily on the state of health, assessment of the spent life, internal standards, support and ability to operate effectively in changing circumstances. In later ages estimation of quality of life affects the mechanisms of pathogenesis of somatic and mental disorders. Up to date there is no agreement among researchers on criteria of identification and assessment of the quality of life in later ages. This article describes the modern understanding of quality of life and its components. It highlights the issues impeding the improvement of quality of life. The article lists the methods for the evaluation of quality of life in later ages. It also presents the analysis of the main factors affecting the quality of life in elderly patients.

Keywords: quality of life, subjective well-being, active aging, elderly age, old age, aging.

Column: Developmental psychology

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The elderly face many challenges in later life, but they do not have to enter old age without dignity. Poverty. Some older members of the workforce felt threatened by this trend and grew concerned that younger employees in higher level positions would push them out of the job market. Rapid advancements in technology and media have required new skill sets that older members of the workforce are less likely to have. Veterans share certain aspects of life in common. To find information on veteran populations and how they are aging, study the information on the web site of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: http://openstaxcollege.org/l/Dep_Veterans_Affairs. Age represents the wealth of life experiences that shape whom we become. With medical advancements that prolong human life, old age has taken on a new meaning in societies with the means to provide high-quality medical care. Also, many people are making proactive quality-of-life decisions about their old age while they are still young. In the past, family members made care decisions when an elderly person reached a health crisis, often leaving the elderly person with little choice about what would happen. Living wills, retirement planning, and medical powers of attorney are other concerns that are increasingly handled in advance. This imbalance in life expectancy has larger implications because of the economic inequality between men and women. Loneliness, Mental Health, and Quality of Life. For the analysis of psychological factors that expose the elderly to the risk of malaise, it has been evidenced that depressive symptoms affect the QoL of the elderly population (Beekman et al., 1999; Blane et al., 2008). Concerning adult life, according to Blazer (2003), among the causes of emotional distress, the presence of depressive symptoms is the most frequent, as this condition significantly contributes to decreasing the QoL of the older segment of the population. For example, depressive symptoms have been proven to be associated with fun