Challenges in validating nursing diagnoses using a longitudinal design
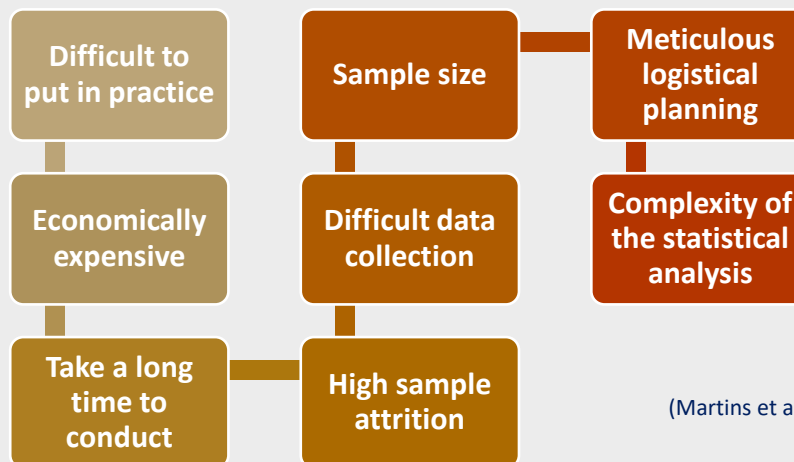
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Introduction

Nursing diagnoses are critical for nursing care and is require more studies to increase the evidence to update clinical practice (Herdman, Kamitsuru & Lopes, 2021).

Most of the studies on nursing diagnoses used a cross-sectional design (Miguel et al., 2019). This reduces the evidence on the profile across time. The longitudinal approach can improve the accuracy of the nursing diagnoses of the diagnostic profile over time a of nursing diagnoses, which can make a difference in the planning of nursing interventions and in patient outcomes during clinical practice.

The challenges in validating nursing diagnoses using a longitudinal methodology are a harsh reality that are often the premise for researchers not to use this type of methodology. However, there are several strategies that can be implemented during all phases of the research process in order to overcome the challenges.

Aim

The aim of this work is to synthesize the challenges in validating nursing diagnoses using a longitudinal design.

Methods

Critical analysis regarding the challenges in validating nursing diagnoses using a longitudinal design.

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Results

Challenges of longitudinal studies

- Difficult to put in practice
- Sample size
- Meticulous logistical planning
- Economically expensive
- Difficult data collection
- Complexity of the statistical analysis
- Take a long time to conduct
- High sample attrition

(Martins et al., 2020)

Strategies to overcome the challenges of longitudinal studies

1. Form a collaborative team and establish a long-term plan;
2. Develop a solid theoretical framework in order to support the research questions;
3. Design a comprehensive study that maps out the study objectives;
4. Determine the sample and develop a recruitment plan;
5. Select and/or develop data collection instruments;
6. Train researchers in data collection and develop procedures for data collection;
7. Do not rush the start of data collection;
8. Develop a plan and team to handle the data;
9. Develop and implement a solid plan for data management;
10. Be prepared for frequent and thorough communication as well as flexibility and challenges throughout the research.

Conclusions

The biggest challenges that are discussed during longitudinal research are in three axes, specifically, in sample attrition, study implementation logistics and complex statistical analysis. Still, the impact of the longitudinal research leads to accuracy and the development of nursing diagnoses in the taxonomy of NANDA -International, Inc.

Implications for nursing practice

Longitudinal design are necessary to understand the nursing phenomena's and human responses over time. Longitudinal studies in validation of nursing diagnoses allows to plan interventions in advance and achieve best outcomes in patients health.

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