

Introduction of qualitative meta-synthesis

Body image of children and adolescents with cancer:
A meta-synthesis on qualitative research findings

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Outline

1. Introduction of qualitative meta-synthesis
2. Practice of qualitative meta-synthesis

Introduction

- This means qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them (Denzin & Lincoln, 2000)
- The aim of meta-syntheses is to portray an accurate interpretation of a phenomenon, and to compare and contrast the constructs of individual studies to reach a consensus on a new construction of that phenomenon (Pearson, 2004)

Introduction (con't)

- The goals of qualitative metasyntheses are the development of **higher-level abstraction, and to enhance the ability to generalize**, in order to make qualitative findings more accessible for practical application (Jensen, 1996; Sandelowski et al., 1997)
- The findings of qualitative research should be synthesised in order to **develop recommendations for practice**

Introduction (con't)

- Stern & Harri (1985) published the first meta-synthesis, which was called **qualitative meta-analysis** at the time
- Meta-synthesis is also called meta-study, meta-ethnography, qualitative meta-analysis, and aggregated analysis(Kent & Fineout-Overholt, 2008)
- Meta-synthesis means **to integrate the findings of qualitative studies** into a theory, model, or overall description of one phenomenon

Meta-synthesis is different from literature review and meta-analysis

- It does not mean to simply generalize secondary data, or collect, accumulate, and compress quantitative data
- It does not mean to conclude or reproduce research findings
- **Integrating several qualitative studies of the same topic, it extracts and integrates data**

(Zimmer, 2006; Sandelowski & Barroso, 2007)

Qualitative studies

- Qualitative research results include interpreted data, or unanalyzed quotations, documents, field notes, charts, poetry, fiction, drama, stories, etc. (Sandelowski & Barroso, 2003)
- Interpreted data with **specific elaboration can be applied to higher level data integration**

Types of Qualitative studies

- **Qualitative research**(qualitative study or qualitative inquiry)
- **Phenomenological**
 - ✓ Transcendental Phenomenological
 - ✓ Hermeneutic Phenomenological
- Ethnography
- Grounded theory
- Action research
- Focus groups
- Feminist research

Contribution of Qualitative studies (Mu, 2014)

1. Allows us to recognize the perspectives of individuals and communities **regarding health and illness, and how they cope with health issues and make decisions**
2. Proposes the perspectives and behavioral implications of caregivers and health care providers
3. By the related **persons' life experience and perspective, it validates the mechanism** or essence of the experience
4. Develops **nursing intervention**
5. Allows us to recognize changing or transition processes
6. Facilitates how **to solve local culture obstacles**

Why do we practice Meta-synthesis?

- Meta-synthesis can supplement research proofs **in decision making** and lead to **more comprehensive** recognition and explanations of phenomena(Walsh & Downe, 2005)
- The aims to develop clinical care guidelines and reinforces broad, flexible, and cautious operations and evaluations of health care providers and policy makers in clinical situations(Finfgeld-Connett, 2010; Mu, 2014)

Meta-synthesis

- ✧ Based on the perspective of **descriptive phenomenology** to result in aggregated findings (Joanna Briggs Institute, 2014)
 - The phenomenon of life experiences
 - The experiences and mechanisms to accept intervention
 - Emphasis on the application of results in clinical situations and the development of clinical care guideline
- Reviewers adopt the research findings **derived from original data**, and rely on their interpretation of research findings, including theme and subtheme (Zimmer, 2006)

Meta.....

∞ Meta-analysis

- Collects, accumulates, and compresses quantitative data to result in common and standardized values of figures (such as effect size)

∞ Meta-synthesis

- Integrates research findings of different qualitative articles with the same or related topics, transcends personal research findings
- Results in new and integrated interpretations

(Sandelowski & Barroso, 2007)

Question development: PICO

∞ Quantitative studies

- Participant
- Intervention
- Comparator
- Outcome
- ✓ Type of study design

∞ Qualitative studies

- Participant/patients
- Phenomena of Interest
- Context

JBI levels of evidence

Levels of evidence for meaningfulness

- ◆ Qualitative or mixed-methods systematic review(Level 1)
- ◆ Qualitative or mixed-methods synthesis(Level 2)
- ◆ Single qualitative study(Level 3)
- ◆ Systematic review of expert opinion(Level 4)
- ◆ Expert opinion(Level 5)

(Joanna Briggs Institute; 2014)

Qualitative meta-synthesis

- Review title
- Review question / objective
 - PICO
 - ✓ **P: Types of participants**
 - ✓ **I : Phenomena of interest**
 - ✓ **C: Context**

Qualitative meta-synthesis

➤ Background

- Literature review of question discussions, and how the questions were developed
- Assesses the meanings of medical care topics
- Literature review of discussions regarding the issues related to the topics
- Describes all discussions associated with the topics in literature review

Qualitative meta-synthesis

- **Inclusion criteria**
 - Types of participants
 - Phenomena of interest
 - Types of studies
- **Exclusion**
 - Types of participants
 - Phenomena of interest
 - Types of studies

Qualitative meta-synthesis

- Search strategy
- Database
- Language(included key words)
- Assessment of methodological quality
- Data collection

Qualitative meta-synthesis

- Data synthesis
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
 - Implications of findings for practice

Practice of qualitative meta-synthesis

Body image of children and adolescents with cancer:
A meta-synthesis on qualitative research findings
(Lee, Mu, Tsay, Chou, Chen & Wong, 2012)



- **INTRODUCTION**

- In the USA, **cancer** is the second most common cause of death among children between the ages of 1 and 14 years....
- Schilder (1950) argued that **body image** is not just a perceptual construct, but it is also a reflection of attitudes and interactions with others.....

- **METHODS**

- The primary aim of many metasynthesis investigations is to translate isolated **qualitative findings** meaningfully to inform healthcare policy and improve patient care (Finfgeld, 2003)

- **Inclusion criteria**

- **Participants**

- The participants of interest were children and adolescents, aged 6–20 years, with cancer.
 - No restrictions on the type, severity, and prognosis of cancer.

- **Phenomena of interest**

- Focused on the body image experience of children and adolescents with cancer when facing cancer treatment, as well as the impact of body image change on these young people

- **Context**

- Hospital , community , and home

- **Key words search term**
 - English and Chinese search
- **Phenomena of interest:** body image* or body perception or body reality or body ideal or body presentation or appearance or self-image or short stature or body shape preferences
- **Types of participants:** child or children or childhood or adolescen* or teen* or pediatric or paediatric or youth* or cancer or neoplasm or leukemia or brain tumor or CNS tumor or malignancy or oncology
- **Types of studies:** qualitative or phenomenology or hermeneutic phenomenology or grounded theory or ethnography or focus group or action research or feminist research or experience*

– **Types of studies**

- focus on qualitative data

– **Search strategy**

- All published and unpublished studies in the English or Chinese languages from 1960 to October 2010
- **Three-step**
- PubMed and CINAHL were searched to identify relevant keywords
- extensive search of the databases
- the reference lists of retrieved articles....(gray area)

- **Quality appraisal**
 - two independent reviewers
 - using standardized critical appraisal instruments from the QARI(The Joanna Briggs Institute, 2011)
- **Data extraction**
 - QARI
- **Data synthesis**
 - QARI

• RESULTS

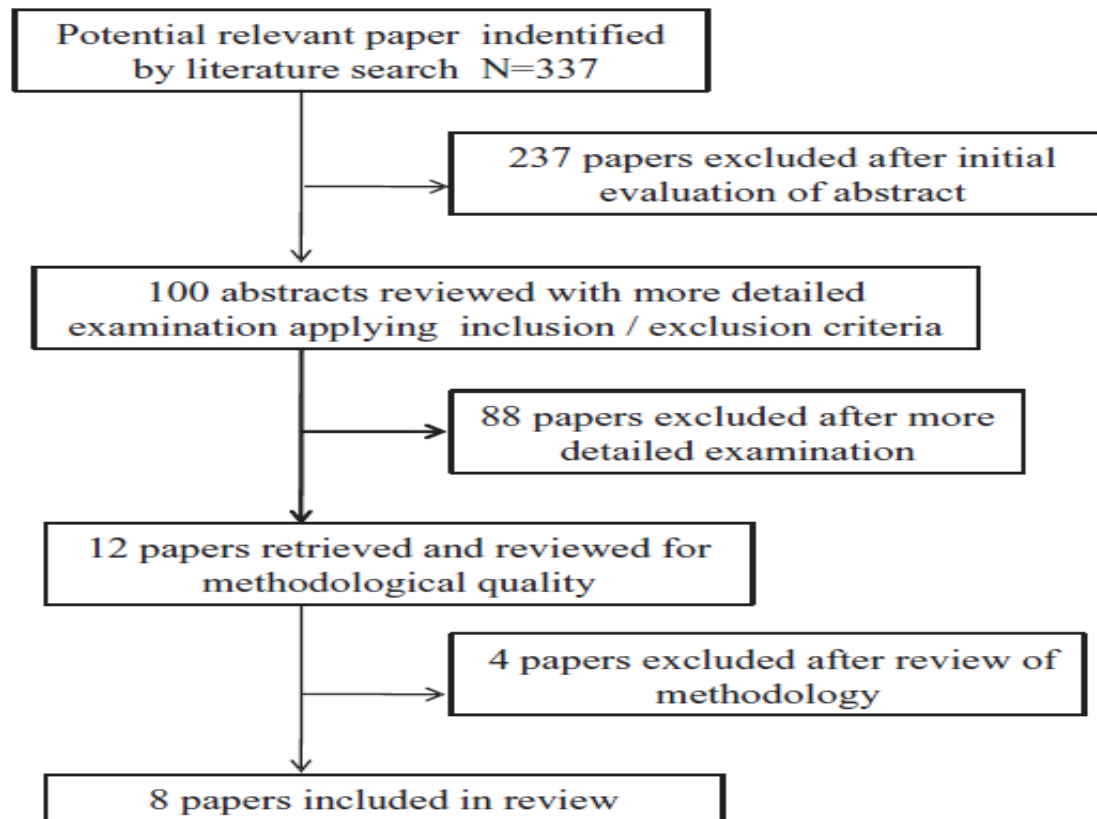
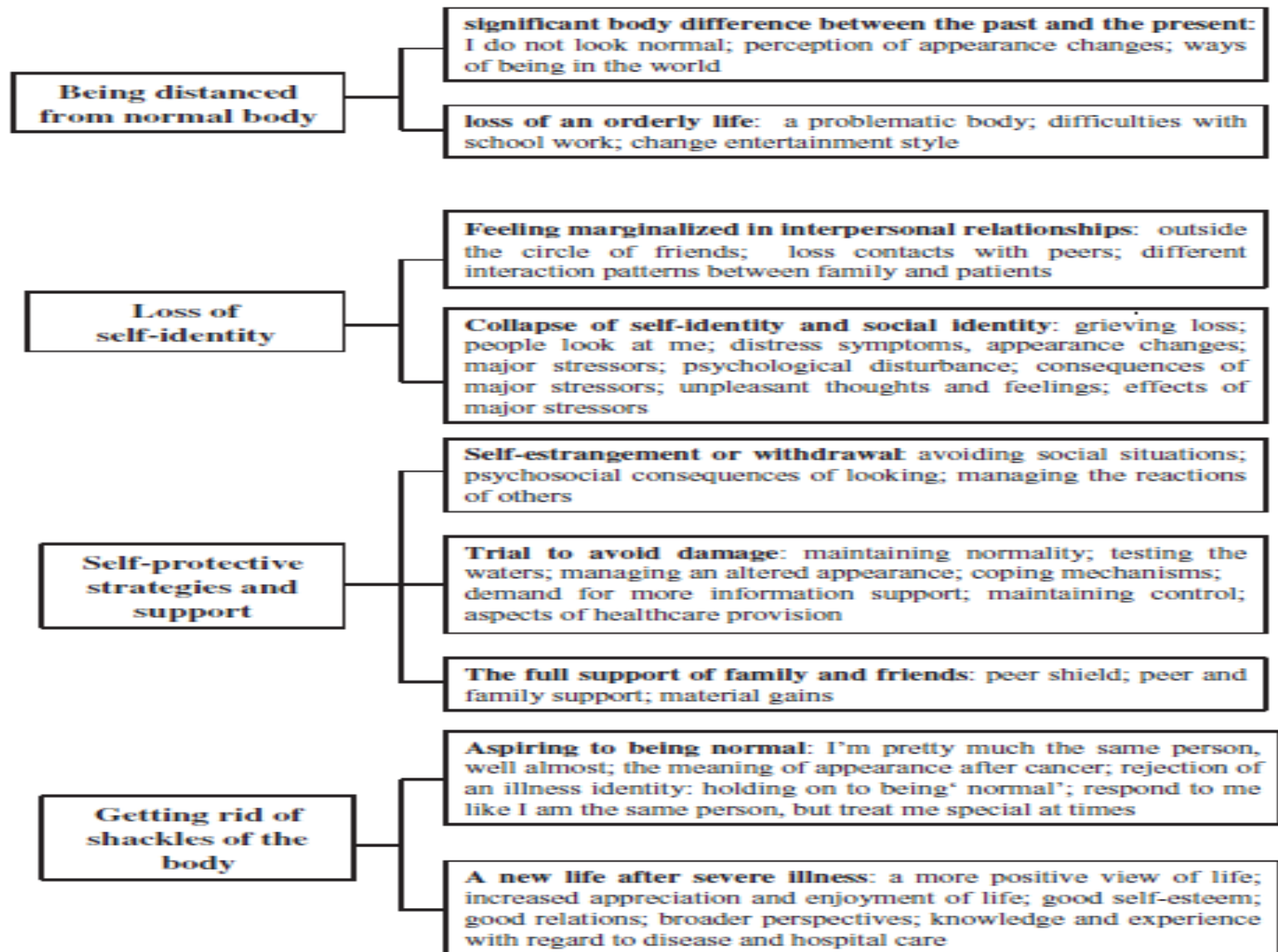


Figure 1. Flow diagram for retrieved studies; excluded and included studies.

- **RESULTS**

- A total of **41 findings** yielded **nine categories**, grouped into **four syntheses**

- **Being distanced from the body**
 - **Loss of self-identity**
 - **Self-protective strategies and support**
 - **Getting rid of physical shackles**



- **DISCUSSION**

- ✓ Meta-synthesis is a process of aggregating the findings of individual qualitative studies to create summary statements that authentically describe the meaning of these themes
- ✓ The studies included in this review were conducted in various countries and settings and on various groups of people
- ✓ Limited to articles written only in English or Chinese

Conclusion (Implications of findings for practice)

➤ Clinical guideline

- **Listening to and respecting** their thoughts and needs concerning body image changes
- Assisting **to reconstruct a new lifestyle**
- Assisting them **to develop coping strategies**, such as ways of dealing with changes in physical appearance and the curiosity and questions of others

- **Clinical guideline**(con't)

- **Encouraging them to express the problems** they face in interpersonal interactions, assisting and teaching them communication skills
- **Discussion with them** about their opinions and feelings about changes to their physical appearance, and assisting them to identify their advantages
- Encouraging them to think positively, and discussing with them their **plans for the future**

Meta-synthesis in Taiwan

- **The experience of adult ventilator-dependent patients:** A meta-synthesis review (Tsay, Mu, Lin, Wang & Chen, 2013)
- Construction of **clinical care guidelines** from empirical results for patients that use ventilators (Mu and Chen, 2011)
- To **provide high-quality nursing care and interventions**

Thank you for your attention

