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Psychosocial support for geriatric patients and spirituality at the end of life

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The elderly population is increasing nearly all around the world along with the new findings and treatment options that medical developments provide. Specific life conditions such as family changes, widowhood, retirement, decreasing incomes, along with the decrease in physical sources and facing the death as a close reality may cause elderly patients feel depressed, lonely and helpless. If the transition to older ages is not supported healthily by the community and by the cultural acceptance, aging might be perceived as a nightmare resulting compliance to the treatment, severe psychiatric disorders and death may come much earlier. On the other hand, spirituality might be an increasingly more important issue for the elderly. Spiritual care usually is given on person to person relationship basis and requires expensive

Biography

Derya Iren Akbiyik is a Medical Doctor at Department of Family Practice in Ankara Diskapi Research and Training Hospital in Turkey. Having a PhD degree in Social Psychiatry and Community Mental Health from Berlin Humboldt University in Germany, she is now teaching primary care psychiatry and psychosocial health. As a part of her training in social psychiatry, she studied in Social Psychiatry and Community Mental Health Academic Unit in London in between 2002-2005. She is also one of the trainers of Psychodrama Group Psychotherapy in A. Ozbek Psychodrama Institute in Turkey. Her main interest areas are psychooncology, psychosocial health in geriatric care, family therapy and counselling, suicide, disaster psychiatry and psychosocial traumas.

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