

Suicide Risk and Protective Factors in Late-Life Depression

The number and proportion of older adults are rapidly growing worldwide, the mental health of older adults has raised the major public concerns. The rate of committing suicide in this group is highest among all age groups. There have been some researches revealing the suicide risk factors including loneliness, loss, medical illnesses, psychiatric disease, insomnia, reduced functioning and autonomy, and physical pain, perceived burdensomeness, family conflict, desire to escape, and some had no specific reason.

Older adults present the complexity involving physical, cognitive, memory, and social function decline, these conditions are additional risks for suicide. Numerous studies demonstrate that older adults are less responsive to report depressed mood, suicidal ideation, even silent suicide frequently goes unrecognized. Therefore, the early detection of suicide risks and protective factors are very critical for enhancing suicide prevention strategy in older adults.