The correlation between death anxiety and anxiety in elderly with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study aims to determine the correlation between death anxiety and anxiety in elderly patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Materials and methods: This study has been conducted on the individuals with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who were over 65 years. They received outpatient and inpatient treatment at a hospital. 171 elderly persons that were determined via power analysis were included in the research. Data was collected using a survey form, Death Anxiety Scale, State Anxiety Scale, and Trait anxiety scale. We used the following test statistics: *t*-test, ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis Variance Analysis, and Pearson Correlation Test analysis.

Results: 66.1 percent (113) of the participants are male and 33.9%(58) female; mean age is 72 ± 6.83. The mean death anxiety score of the participants is 9.04 ± 4.02. The mean State Anxiety score of elderly individuals with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is 44.8 ± 1.29; the trait anxiety mean score is 48.85 ± 1.13. In those chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients, we found a significant ($p<0.001$) correlation between state and trait anxiety, and that the latter two are high in cases where death anxiety is high.

Conclusion: We found that death anxiety and anxiety are high in patients with COPD.

Keywords: Elderly patients, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Death Anxiety, Anxiety, State Anxiety, Trait Anxiety.