

PREDICTING HELP-SEEKING INTENTION OF WOMEN WITH URINARY INCONTINENCE IN MAINLAND CHINA: A MODEL BASED ON THE THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR

Hypothesis / aims of study

Female urinary incontinence is a common chronic disease, but few patients voice their suffering to medical officials. Plenty of studies focus on exploring the complex influencing factors, nevertheless, factors affecting the help-seeking behavior draw little attention, especially in mainland China. The aims of this study were to construct a predicting model and determine the ability of the TPB to predict the help-seeking intention of women with urinary incontinence.

Study design, materials and methods

A cross-sectional study was performed among women with urinary incontinence in the communities of Jinan, and a total of 395 urinary incontinent women were enrolled through the convenience sampling. Data were collected via scene questionnaire survey, of which three main questionnaires (Help-seeking attitude scale, The revised social impact scale and Perceived self-efficacy scale) based on the TPB were used. Structural equation model supported by Amos 19.0 was conducted to construct a model in predicting the onset of patients' help-seeking intention.

Results

Factor loadings were examined prior to psychometric assessment of the three scales. All item factor loadings corresponding to each subscale were significant with $p < 0.05$. Confirmatory factor analysis showed that two items (item 17 and 19) of the revised social impact scale were omitted deliberately, because they both have big modification indices (> 4) and multiple unexpected paths. The indexes of χ^2 , GFI, AGFI, NFI, IFI, CFI and RMSEA satisfied the conclusion of good construct validity of scales. Cronbach's α coefficients of the three scales, help-seeking attitude scale, the revised social impact scale and perceived self-efficacy scale, were 0.81, 0.86 and 0.70, with the retest reliability (2 weeks intervals) 0.87, 0.92, 0.76 respectively. Fit indexes of the ultimate predicting model were preferable with $\chi^2/df = 3.318$, GFI = 0.913, AGFI = 0.870, NFI = 0.870, IFI = 0.906, CFI = 0.904, RMSEA = 0.077. The three components of the TPB accounted for 20% of the variables in help-seeking intentions of incontinent women, with the perceived social impact as the strongest predictor.

Interpretation of results

Factor analysis indicated the favorable reliability and validity of the three scales. With the reliable and valid scales, the goodness of fit indexes of the predicting model was fairly good.

The predictive utility of the TPB with the percentage of 20% is acceptable comparing with results from the TPB using in other health-related behaviors. Perceived social impact was the strongest positive predictor of intention ($\beta = 0.45$, $p < 0.05$), followed by perceived self-efficacy, which was negatively associated with the help-seeking intention ($\beta = -0.32$, $p < 0.05$). The fact that the help-seeking attitude was not a significant predictor was beyond expectation, but did not contradict the thought of the TPB. Besides, social desirability bias can also account for the inconsistency.

Concluding message

TPB is a sound model in predicting help-seeking intention of women with urinary incontinence. Interventions to promote the help-seeking intention of women with urinary incontinence in mainland China should pay attention to their perceived social impact and self-efficacy.

Disclosures

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