Predicting Help-seeking Intention of Women with Urinary Incontinence in Mainland China: A Model Based on the Theory of Planned Behavior

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BACKGROUND

♣ Female urinary incontinence is a common chronic condition that exerts extensive impact on patients’ quality of life, while few women bring their concerns to health professionals.
♣ Many studies focus on exploring the complex influencing factors, and various scattered factors (e.g., self-misception of UI, level of perceived bother, detection of leakage, urine odor) were obtained.
♣ In mainland China, the discrepancy was even more dramatic, while factors affecting the help-seeking behavior draw little attention.
♣ In the past 20 years, many investigators successfully confirmed that the theory of planned behavior (TPB) could be applied to different behavioral domains successfully.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Help-seeking attitude
Perceived social impact
Perceived self-efficacy

Intention

Figure 1 Theoretical Framework

AIMS

To construct a predictive model and determine the ability of the TPB to predict women's intention to seek help for their symptoms of UI.

METHODS

♣ Study Design: cross-sectional survey
♣ Sampling: purposive sampling
♣ Sample: 395 UI women from 3 communities in Jinan, China were selected by home visit from community health professionals.
Inclusion criteria: 18 years old and over; without critical illnesses
Exclusion criteria: women who refused to participate in the survey
♣ Measures: Help-seeking attitude scale; Social Impact Scale (Chinese version): Perceived self-efficacy scale
♣ Data collection: pencil and paper-based one-on-one survey
♣ Data analysis:
SPSS13.0: Descriptive statistics
Amos 19.0: Construct validity; Structural Equation Model

RESULTS

Table 1 Scales' Construct Validity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scales</th>
<th>λ</th>
<th>GFI</th>
<th>AGFI</th>
<th>NFI</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>CFI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help-seeking attitude</td>
<td>0.39-0.86</td>
<td>0.976</td>
<td>0.927</td>
<td>0.965</td>
<td>0.972</td>
<td>0.972</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perceived social impact</td>
<td>0.43-0.87</td>
<td>0.905</td>
<td>0.870</td>
<td>0.874</td>
<td>0.913</td>
<td>0.912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perceived self-efficacy</td>
<td>0.57-0.65</td>
<td>0.981</td>
<td>0.904</td>
<td>0.944</td>
<td>0.951</td>
<td>0.951</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

♦ Fit indexes of the final model were $\chi^2$/df = 2.719, GFI = 0.935, AGFI = 0.900, NFI = 0.902, IFI = 0.936, CFI = 0.935, RMSEA = 0.066.
♦ Three TPB variables accounted for 19% of the variance.
♦ Perceived social impact was the strongest predictor of intention ($\beta$ = 0.365, $P < 0.05$), followed by perceived self-efficacy ($\beta$ = -0.337, $P < 0.05$), while the help-seeking attitude was not a significant predictor ($\beta$ = 0.222, $P = 0.118$) (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Final Help-Seeking Intention Model

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

♦ TPB is a sound model in predicting help-seeking intention of incontinent women in mainland China.
♦ Nursing interventions that aim at moderating urinary incontinent women's perceived social impact and changing their self-efficacy of negative coping strategies will enhance their help-seeking intention.
♦ Cross-cultural comparative studies are highly recommended to confirm whether help-seeking attitude could predict urinary incontinent women's intention in individualistic countries.