

Exploring the Reciprocal Relationship Between Depressive Symptoms and Cognitive Function among Chinese Older Adults

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Abstract

Previous longitudinal studies have found out that depressive symptoms affected IADL/ADL disability, and vice versa. However, current literature is lacking on the reciprocal relationships between depressive symptoms and cognitive function simultaneously, especially in developing countries like China. The present study aimed to examine the reciprocal relationship between depressive symptoms and cognitive function among older adults in China. By applying the fixed effect model and cross-lagged panel model on the data of the China health and retirement longitudinal study (CHARLS) 2013, 2015 and 2018, this paper examine the reciprocal relationship between depressive symptoms and cognitive function among the older adults in China. Results show that there is a significant negative correlation between depressive symptoms and cognitive function among Chinese older adults during the same period. After controlling for unobserved confounding factors, the deterioration and improvement of depressive symptoms will significantly affect cognitive ability. Using cross-lagged panel model, we found a reciprocal relationship between depressive symptoms and cognitive function among the older adults. This paper depicts a unique relationship between depressive symptoms and cognitive function among the older adults in China, and helps us better understand the causal relationship between both of them.

Keywords: Depressive Symptoms; Cognitive Function; Reciprocal Relationship;
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