affects individuals, families, and communities throughout the lifespan. The topic of suicide among older adults, especially those living in LMICs, has unfortunately received limited attention. Using a sample of 228 women with depression from the first wave of the WHO's Study on global AGEing and adult health (SAGE, Ghana), the present study sought to identify predictors of suicide ideation among aging African women. Binominal logistic regression results revealed that wealth (negatively) and health (negatively) were associated with suicide ideation in the sample; indicating that the women who were poor and unhealthy were more likely to have suicidal thoughts. Implications of the findings for aging Ghanaian women will be addressed.

ATTITUDES, EXPECTATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND INTENTIONS REGARDING ORAL HEALTH: PERCEPTIONS OF OLDER ADULTS

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Many adults in today's aging cohort are maintaining their teeth into their advanced years. The advantages of fluoridated water, dental insurance, greater awareness of preventive oral healthcare, and more restorative dental services, have made this possible. The demand for oral health care services will be greater and more complex than that of previous generations. Evidence of a link between oral health and overall health underscores the need to better integrate dental care into the healthcare system. The aim of this study was to better understand these issues from the perspective of older adults (N = 26) 65 years of age and older and living independently. Semi structured interviews guided by the behavioral constructs of the Reasoned Action Approach Theory were conducted. Results from the qualitative analysis revealed five themes: 1) Difficulties accessing dental care, 2) Stoic independence, 3) Taking care of your mouth as part of overall health, 4) Relationships affecting oral health related quality of life, and 5) Supporting roles. The findings demonstrate a need to increase oral health literacy in the older adult population with attention to reducing modifiable risk factors. Understanding these behaviors and the current level of oral and overall health knowledge from the perspective of older adults, is vital to helping these individuals' transition into increasing levels of dependency with a high level of oral health related quality of life. Public health program planning can use this information to help older adults prepare for the transitions that come with healthy aging.

BACTERIAL PNEUMONIA IS A POSSIBLE RISK FACTOR FOR ORAL CANDIDIASIS IN OLDER ADULTS: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY.

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Both aspiration pneumonia and oral candidiasis are caused by opportunistic infection of intraoral commensals and have many similar risk factors linked to oral health in older adults. Candida albicans forms biofilms with respiratory bacteria such as Klebsiella pneumoniae and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. The aim of our study was to determine the relationship between bacterial pneumonia, including aspiration pneumonia, and oral candidiasis in older patients who were hospitalized with several systemic diseases in a community-based acute care hospital without a dental unit. We retrospectively analyzed 228 older patients (male: 105, female: 123) using multiple logistic regression. The mean age of the patients was 81.3 (SD: 11.1) years. Forty-four patients were oral candidiasis positive, and 78 patients suffered from bacterial pneumonia, including aspiration pneumonia. Results showed that bacterial pneumonia had the strongest statistical relationship with oral candidiasis (p=0.000, OR: 5.173, 95 % CI: 2.368–11.298). This was followed by poor oral hygiene (p=0.001, OR: 6.095, 95 % CI: 2.003–18.545) and severe dry mouth (p=0.043, OR: 2.507, 95 % CI: 1.031–6.098). Other conventional risk factors for oral candidiasis, such as diabetes mellitus, denture wearer, dysphagia, malnutrition, requiring care, use of inhalation steroids, were not statistically significant in this study. Fifteen species of bacteria, including Klebsiella pneumoniae and Pseudomonas aeruginosa, were detected by pharyngeal sputum culture in 24 of 31 patients who were diagnosed with both oral candidiasis and bacterial pneumonia. In conclusion, bacterial pneumonia is a possible new risk factor for oral candidiasis in older adults.

PSYCHOSOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMATOLOGY AMONG MEXICAN OLDER ADULTS

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The incidence of mental health problems, specifically depression, are increasing among older adults. Previous research identified psychosocial characteristics related to mental resiliency, such as increased conscientiousness and internal locus of control, as contributing to improved health behaviors and better physical and mental health outcomes. This study identifies the association between these psychosocial traits and depressive symptomatology among Mexican adults aged 50 and older using Wave 4 of the Mexican Health and Aging Study (2015). We hypothesize that psychosocially 'strong' older Mexican adults, those with higher levels of conscientiousness and an internal locus of control, will report fewer depressive symptoms; we theorize that gender moderates this relationship. Older Mexican adults' mental health status was measured through depressive symptomatology using a 9-item version of the Centers for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression (CES-D) scale. Conscientiousness was measured using a 6-item sub-dimension of the "Big 5" personality scale. Locus of control was measured using an 8-item scale adapted from Rotter (1966). Multivariable linear regression was performed and adjusted for socio-demographic characteristics and comorbid chronic health conditions. Depressive symptoms were lower with higher age and formal education; however, older adults in rural environments who are divorced/