Palliative care for elderly South Asian immigrants: A systematic review

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AIM OF THE STUDY
To present results from a systematic literature review of available international evidence on experiences with and perspectives on palliative care among older South Asian immigrants, relatives and healthcare providers.

BACKGROUND
Palliative care that meets the specific cultural needs of elderly immigrants is a priority, to provide equitable palliative care services to all in society.

RESULTS
- Sense of isolation, lack of dignity and cultural insensitive care at hospital
- Role of Family
  - Cultural practice of family collectivism in the PC decision making
  - Preference of home care even it is burdensome for family members
- Communication
  - Lack of cultural competency training among health professionals
  - Lack of proficiency in local language
  - Lack of knowledge and awareness about existing PC
  - Lack of trust in the health care professionals from different culture
- Building trust with families

METHOD
Studies were searched in PubMed, EMBASE, CINAHL, and PsychINFO databases covering the period 2000 to 2018 in February 2018. Key words for search terms were palliative care, immigrants and South Asia. Thematic synthesis was used to analyses the data (articles).

CONCLUSION
Considering the multi-ethnic nature of the world today, findings related to the importance of family involvement and culturally appropriate palliative care may be applicable to other immigrant populations beyond South Asians immigrants.

RECOMMENDATIONS
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